



Press Release:

MEPs – please vote for improved consumer protection!

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On 17 October, the European Parliament’s Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) Committee will vote on new legislation on consumer product safety and market surveillance.

“Most consumers think market surveillance will protect them from buying unsafe products. But this is not true as market surveillance means different things in different countries”, said ANEC Secretary-General, Stephen Russell. “Even the most stringent laws and standards become worthless if they are not applied or enforced. We call on MEPs to adopt the IMCO reports on Consumer Product Safety and Market Surveillance, as we believe they represent steps in the right direction for improved consumer protection. Hence, we also ask the European Institutions to work towards the adoption of both Regulations in this legislature.”

Both IMCO reports propose improvements on the current legislation, including the European Commission proposals to strengthen product traceability; the introduction of an EU-wide accident & injury database, reference to the precautionary principle; and measures to increase the protection of vulnerable consumers. We trust the IMCO Committee will also support measures to ensure the safety of child-appealing products, as there are no clear indications in legislation on what constitutes a child-appealing product and how to mitigate its risk to children.

"The present General Product Safety Directive, which the Consumer Product Safety Regulation is meant to replace, provides a "safety net" by complementing sectoral product legislation and obliges all products on the market to be safe for consumers. We urge MEPs to ensure this safety net is continued in the new Regulation", added Mr Russell.

"Nevertheless, strengthened market surveillance will be key to the success of the Consumer Product Safety Regulation. Hence we call on MEPs to ensure the Market Surveillance Regulation requires the Member States to provide adequate resources to market surveillance activities at national level, and to set common definitions and common action plans for the common market at the European level."

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About ANEC

ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending consumer interests in the processes of technical standardisation and conformity assessment, as well as related legislation and public policies.

ANEC was established in 1995 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law and is open to the representation of national consumer organisations in 33 countries.

ANEC is funded by the European Union and EFTA, with national consumer organisations contributing in kind. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels.



Raising standards for consumers

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