



Press Release

All for industry, nothing for consumers?

Standards in the Digital Single Market

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Digital Technologies have a considerable impact on the lives of consumers, ranging from on-line shopping to e-government & e-voting. Although ANEC welcomes the focus on interoperability in the EC's initiative on the Digital Single Market (DSM) adopted today, we regret its integrated standards plan will not seek increased consumer protection across borders.

ANEC Secretary-General, Stephen Russell, said, "In our view, if the DSM is to bring added value for consumers, there is need for standards that address issues such as safety, data protection & security, interoperability and – above all - accessibility for all. It is equally vital that standards elaborated for ICT products and services take the consumer view into account".

ANEC asks the EC to ensure consumers will be able to make effective contributions to the drafting of standards for the DSM where these standards will affect consumers. "We have to avoid the proprietary technical solutions that allow companies to dictate preconditions which leave consumers tied to a particular system, either financially or materially" added Mr Russell. "We shall therefore assess the will of the EC to find a balanced approach on patents and standards. We doubt enhanced interoperability of ICT products and services for all consumers can be achieved through use of narrow-consensus standards from informal standards developers."

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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