



Press Release

#WatchOut !

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For peace of mind, some parents want to be able to be in contact with their children and keep track of their whereabouts at all times. The now popular smartwatches are wearable mobile phones that use the internet and GPS to allow real-time tracking of children and communication with them. But what if, instead of keeping your children safe, you are placing their safety at risk?

Together with a security firm, the Norwegian Consumer Council analysed four smart watches available online and in Norwegian stores. The findings are alarming. The watches promise peace of mind for parents but instead they deliver serious privacy breaches, a false sense of security, and unacceptable terms.

In a few steps, a stranger can take control of your child's watch, to track, listen, or communicate with your child without you knowing. Also, some apps associated with the watches lack terms and conditions, and do not allow for personal data or user accounts to be deleted.

ANEC Secretary-General, Stephen Russell, commented:

"Children are the most vulnerable of consumers. As with the #toyfail report, we see internet-connected products again failing to meet data protection laws. We need to ensure connected devices, such as smartwatches, fall under a robust legal and standardisation framework to guarantee the respect of data protection and privacy, especially as the information processed and transmitted concerns children".

For more information, we ask consumers to watch this video on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xoer_28U41k&feature=youtu.be

ENDS.

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 34 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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