



Raising standards for consumers



MEDIA RELEASE | 6 NOVEMBER 2020

European Consumer Safety needs solid injury data



ANEC-PR-2020-PRL-005
Contact person: Tania Vandenberghe
tva@anec.eu

On the occasion of International Product Safety Week on 9-10 November, ANEC, the European Consumer Voice in Standardisation, and EuroSafe, the European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, are calling in a joint position paper for a revitalisation of the European Injury Database (EU-IDB).

In the EU, each year roughly 5 million people are admitted for one day or longer into a hospital as a result of injuries sustained in accidents. In addition, 33 million others are treated as outpatients¹. 38 million injuries per year is not only an extraordinarily high number but also contributes to significant healthcare costs (estimated at €78 billion each year)².

The safety – or the lack of safety – of consumer products plays an important role in the frequency and severity of injuries. 20 million of the accidents occur at home or while engaged in leisure activities, including sports. Products are involved in more than 50% of these injuries (about 11 million injuries annually).

Evidence-based and targeted prevention needs data on the frequency and severity of these accidents and injuries, as well on the concerned population group and circumstances, i.e. products, activities or locations involved in the events.

In order to improve consumer safety, information is required similar to that available on road and workplace safety.

¹ [1] Report "Injuries in the European Union 2013-2015": <https://bit.ly/388NdG9>

² [2] Article "Injury data collection: An effective tool for helping to cut the societal costs of injuries": <https://bit.ly/368QSkW>



Raising standards for consumers



Stephen Russell, ANEC Secretary-General said, "A cost-effective solution to injury surveillance is possible. The systematic collection of injury data in emergency departments of hospitals, on which the EU-IDB is based, remains the most cost-efficient way to provide solid estimates of the number of patients in Europe and inform the standardisation process".

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission's surveillance system (NEISS) provides an example. CPSC today provides a comprehensive information gathering system and clearing-house for stakeholders through a user-friendly web-gate open for everybody, unlike the EU-IDB which is in danger of complete collapse.

Wim Rogmans, Secretary General of EuroSafe, added, "Parliament, Member States and the Commission should strive for a legal framework, which supports Member States in collecting and sharing data on injuries involving consumer products, based on a common methodology, with the aim of achieving a high quality, representative and up-to-date data pool for the entire Single Market".

ENDS.

ABOUT

ANEC

ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending consumer interests in the processes of technical standardisation and the use of standards, 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.

EUROSAFE

EuroSafe's mission is to promote consumer safety by working in partnership with industry, governments, research institutes and health and safety practitioners to help reduce the greatest risks.

One of the main goals of EuroSafe is to facilitate the sharing of state of art intelligence in injury surveillance and evidence-based practices in prevention; to raise awareness amongst professionals, as well as the general public, of product-related injury risks; and highlight cost effective measures to prevent these injuries.

EuroSafe aims to ensure the highest achievable levels of consumer safety across the entire European region and to decrease current inequalities in injuries between countries by promoting consistent policies, programmes and infrastructures throughout Europe.



European association for the coordination of consumer representation in standardisation aisbl

Rue d'Arlon 80,
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

+32 2 743 24 70

+32 2 706 54 30

anec@anec.eu

www.anec.eu

EC Register of Interest Representatives:
Identification number 507800799-30
BCE 0457.696.181

@anectweet

ANEC is supported financially by the European Union & EFTA

This document may be quoted and reproduced, provided the source is given.
This document is available in English upon request from the ANEC Secretariat
or from the ANEC website at www.anec.eu © Copyright ANEC 2020

