

How standards can help IPRs to evolve for the benefit of consumers?



Chiara Giovannini, ANEC
Anne-Catherine Lorrain, TACD

IPR in ICT standardisation workshop, 19 Nov 08, Brussels



Contents



-
- **ANEC and TACD in a nutshell**
 - **ICT standardisation and IPRs: a case for interoperability**
 - **Standards as a tool for promoting consumer interests?**



**The European consumer
voice in standardisation**

**Ensure public interest
representation in
standardisation**

**Established in 1995 by national consumer
organisations and public authorities**

**Co-funded by the European Commission
and EFTA**

Networking



- **Affiliate member of CI**
 - **Observer to TACD**
 - **Associate Member of CEN**
 - **Cooperating Partner of CENELEC**
 - **Full member of ETSI**
 - **Member of  **W3C**[®] **WORLD WIDE WEB**
*consortium***
 - **Observer to ISO-COPOLCO**
 - **Member of European Consumer Consultative Group (ECCG)¹**
-

The Trans Atlantic Consumer Dialogue

European members



Consumentendbond



Sveriges Konsumenter

which?

HAI

Konsument.at



Consumer Focus

FORBRUGERRÅDET Uafhængig - siden 1947



VACU
asociación valenciana de consumidores y usuarios

net consumers



Ocu
ORGANIZACIÓN DE CONSUMIDORES Y USUARIOS

beuc
The European Consumers' Organisation



QUE CHOISIR exper
en ligne

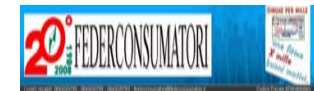


verbraucherzentrale
Bundesverband

APC-Romania
ORGANIZATIE DE UTILITATE PUBLICA



Ε.ΚΑΤ.Ο.
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΑΤΑΝΑΛΩΤΙΚΗ ΟΡΓΑΝΩΣΗ



ACU ASSOCIAZIONE CONSUMATORI UTENTI

ALTROCONSUMO



The Trans Atlantic Consumer Dialogue

American members



welcome to the **National Consumers League**



Why consumers need standards



-
- Standards and openness: a means to achieve **interoperability**, *i.e.* **compatibility** of devices and services;
 - Content migration/data portability, content sustainability;
 - Promotion of creativity and innovation;
 - The “price” issue for end-users:
Licenses, royalty fees... Are standards “cheaper”?
-



TACD Resolution on software interoperability and open standards (July 2008)¹

- Maximum consumer choice;
- Level playing field and maximum competition amongst vendors;
- Open standards for formats and intercommunication protocols for interoperability;
- Enhanced consumer privacy and data protection, when building interoperable systems.



A proposal for a government "tool box"



How governments can satisfy consumers' needs:

Promote creation and adoption of **nonproprietary hardware and software interfaces** through a combination of **policy, legislation, regulation** and **procurement policies** in addition to **voluntary standards** development activities, following **democratic and transparent processes**.



A proposal for a government "tool box"



Concrete actions:

- Give preference to interoperable products or services when undertaking procurement decisions and so encourage their market development;
- Repeal, revise, or refrain from adopting IPRs laws that have adverse effects on interoperability, mainly in the field of patent laws;
- Attempt to achieve interoperability *ex post* within the competition law framework.



Thank you for your attention!

www.anec.eu

contact: chiara.giovannini@anec.eu

www.tacd.org

www.tacd-ip.org/blog

contact: aclorrain@consint.org