



ANEC

***The European consumer voice in
standardisation
and conformity assessment***



The New Approach (1)

- The European legislator sets essential safety requirements through horizontal and sectoral European 'directives'
- The European Standards Organisations (CEN, CENELEC, ETSI) are invited (through a 'mandate') to develop the European Standards (ENs)
- These 'mandated' ENs are called 'harmonized standards'
- Although the use of harmonized standards remains voluntary, a manufacturer can presume his product complies with the law (and affix CE Marking) if it conforms to harmonized standard(s)
- The New Legislative Framework will extend to New Approach principles to almost all products from January 2010

The New Approach (2)

- The New Approach is a model of self-regulation and the European Standards Organisations are private associations
- Although the participation of national interested parties is encouraged in the development of European Standards, business interests have the most to gain from influencing the content of the standards and have the financial and human resources to participate in the process
- Moreover, national consumer expertise in standardisation is fragmented or does not exist
- Hence there is need for consumers to be organised at the European level (and to receive financial support from the public authorities) in order to ensure a strong and coherent consumer voice in European standardisation

So consumer participation...



**is
institutionalised
at the EU level**



***'The European Association for the
Co-ordination of Consumer
Representation in Standardisation'***

(or 'The European consumer voice in standardization')

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- Established in 1995 as a private, not-for-profit international association under Belgian law
 - Promotes and defends the European consumer interest in:
 - *standardisation (political and technical)*
 - *the use of standards (conformity assessment)*
 - *the development of laws related to standards or their use*
 - Is governed by a General Assembly comprising individuals from the EU & EFTA countries who represent all national consumer organisations in their countries
 - Brings together consumer experts from all over Europe in defining the ANEC position on technical issues in its seven areas of priority
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ANEC facts & figures



- ANEC is dependent upon funding from the EU (95%) and EFTA (5%) through Grant Agreements
- Subject to an annual call for tender
- 1,5M€ total budget in 2009:
 - employs a central secretariat in Brussels (10 people)
 - supports network of 260 volunteer experts from across Europe
 - funds an ANEC R&T programme of 150.000€
- Seven areas of technical priority decided by General Assembly
 - Child Safety
 - Design for All
 - Domestic Appliances
 - Environment
 - Information Society
 - Services
 - Traffic

- Consumer positions need to be based on scientific evidence
- In the 2008 budget, 138.000€ was allocated to R&T projects:
 - *Revising EN 60335-2 standards for household electrical appliances*
 - *The inclusion of food safety aspects in EN 60335 standards*
 - *Labelling the environmental performance of products*
 - *Consumer priorities in ISO standardisation of tourism services*
 - *Contribution of conformity assessment to consumer protection*
- The R&T project is conducted by an expert organisation after a restricted call for tender
- Another 30.000€ in 2008 was used to support an expert to represent ANEC in UNECE work on automotive standards (e.g. child restraint systems)

ANEC Memberships

- **Associate Member of**



- **Co-operating Partner of**



- **Ordinary member of**



- **Member of**



- **Observer in ISO**





BEUC

The European Consumers' Organisation

Memorandum of Understanding with
Consumers International



ANEC success stories (1)



Child-resistant lighters

ANEC success stories (2)



Child-restraint systems (CRS)

ANEC success stories (3)



EN 14682 : 2007 Specification for cords on children's clothing

ANEC success stories (4)



Removal of the ‘exclusion clause’ from EN 60335-2 standards

ANEC success stories (5)



Mandate M/420 – Access to the built environment

Concluding remarks

- Consumer representation in standards development is essential
 - remember the example of the 'exclusion clause'
- Standardization is a private and not a public activity
- Consumer representation is not guaranteed by the market
 - and hence there is need for public intervention
- Public funding is key to a strong consumer voice
 - voluntary experts cannot support themselves
- And funds must be available to undertake independent R&T
 - otherwise the consumer position can be easily ignored



Thank you for listening!



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