



The European Consumers' Organisation

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE
PRESS RELEASE

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Rapid Alert System (RAPEX): Safety must be kept high on the agenda of Europe's decision makers

Today, the European Commission is presenting its Annual Report (2009) on the operation of the RAPEX system, the European rapid alert system for all dangerous consumer products (with the exception of food, pharmaceutical and medical devices).

Once again, the number of alerts of the past year has increased and although this shows that better surveillance is taking place, it undoubtedly shows that there are still far too many dangerous products that are slipping through the net and making it onto the market place.

Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation, said:

"We must aim for a situation where dangerous products are virtually non-existent in the market-place. This will only be done when national authorities are given more resources for market surveillance. The EU is only as strong as its weakest member, after all, and it only takes one dangerous shipment to go unnoticed for catastrophe to strike."

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