



COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Ophélie Spanneut (BEUC) +32 2 789 24 01
Stephen Russell (ANEC) +32 2 743 24 70
Date: 12/05/2011
Reference: PR 022/2010 / ANEC-PR-2011-PRL-011

**Rapid Alert System of Dangerous Products (RAPEX):
Still room for improvement**

Today the European Commission presented its Annual Report (2010) on the operation of the RAPEX system, the European rapid alert system for dangerous consumer products (excepting food, pharmaceutical and medical devices), also a good indicator of developments in product safety.

Just reviewed for the first time this year is the new dedicated rapid alert system for business, designed to facilitate producers and distributors' obligations to directly notify dangerous products over the web, and it has proved useful.

Stephen Russell, ANEC Secretary General reacted:

"Once again, the number of alerts of the past year have increased – a record 2,244 unsafe products were found - and although this shows that the system detects unsafe products, it undoubtedly shows that there are still far too many dangerous products slipping through the net. More efforts, and particularly resources, are still needed to improve market surveillance.

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

"The upcoming review of the General Product Safety Directiveⁱ should be the opportunity to set up an improved European framework for market surveillance and for better product traceability, requiring for instance manufacturers to mark their products with a batch or serial number."

ENDS

B E U C - Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs - The European Consumers' Organisation
rue d'Arlon 80 B-1040 Bruxelles, Tél: (+32-2) 789 24 01, Fax: (+32-2) 740.28.02
press@beuc.eu - www.beuc.eu

* A N E C - The European Consumer Voice in Standardisation *
Av. de Tervueren 32, box 27, B-1040 Bruxelles, Tél.: (+32-2) 743.24.70, Fax: (+32-2)706.54.30
anec@anec.eu - www.anec.eu

ⁱ A legislative proposal from the Commission is expected in late 2011