

Contact: Johannes Kleis: +32 (0)2 789 24 01
Date: 25/03/2014
Reference: BEUC-PR-2014-009

RAPEX figures reminder of need to update EU product safety law

Clothing and toys topped the list of 2,364 products reported to the EU's rapid alerts system for dangerous consumer products (RAPEX)¹ in 2013.

Monique Goyens, Director General of The European Consumer Organisation, commented:

"In a Single Market it is key that authorities cooperate across borders flawlessly so risky products come off shelves before consumers are harmed. The 2013 figures again show that dangerous products continue to slip through the net and into the European marketplace. This a breach of manufacturers and traders' fundamental obligation to sell only safe products.

"When a faulty product is spotted, it should be traced all the way back along the supply chain to eliminate the risk of it showing up in other shops or countries. All too often, this 'traceability' is patchy.

"For more than a year, important updates to the current system have been on the table. It should be mandatory for manufacturer and importer's addresses to be put on products, as well as the serial number. Deep disagreement between member state governments has led to a stalemate in Council, which is an unacceptable block on our efforts to make consumer products safer."

ENDS

¹ Except for food, pharmaceutical products and medical devices. For more info on report:
http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/safety/rapex/stats_reports_en.htm