



Raising standards for consumers



The Consumer Voice in Europe

European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60

B – 1047 Brussels

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ANEC-ML-2019-0038

11 April 2019

RE: Plenary vote on market surveillance and compliance Regulation

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

We are writing to you on behalf of the European consumer organisations ANEC and BEUC ahead of the plenary vote on better market surveillance rules for products¹ which will take place on Wednesday, 17 April 2019.

When consumers purchase new products such as toys or electronics, they expect them to be safe. However, products are often unsafe because sound safety and market surveillance rules are missing, are too lenient, are violated by manufacturers and traders, or Member States fail to check goods. To protect consumers from harmful products, the European legislation must do more to ensure that only safe products make their way into physical and online shops.

We therefore urge you to support the compromise text which has been negotiated in trilogue as it will provide for substantial benefits for consumer safety and a fair single European market. Through the influence of the European Parliament (Rapporteur Nicola Danti) important improvements has been achieved. The strong points of the final compromise are:

- Enhanced traceability in the supply chain, including a need to indicate the full name and address of the manufacturer on the product and to establish a legal representative in the EU for certain product groups such as toys and electric appliances.
- Intensified controls of the safety of products sold online and stronger accountability in the supply chain as platforms will have certain responsibility for product safety alongside with other economic operators.
- Increased capacities for product testing through future joint tests in EU designated laboratories.

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¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/... of the European Parliament and of the Council on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Council Directive 2004/42/EC, Regulations (EC) No 765/2008 and (EU) No 305/2011.

- Recognition of the need to protect consumers from new threats through connected devices.
- Better organisations and financing of market surveillance authorities including with customs and better cooperation between Member States and with the EU Commission.
- Possibly stronger cooperation at international level on product safety matters.
- Better protection of health and environmental interests alongside with consumer safety.
- A better toolbox for market surveillance authorities such as possibilities to carry out mystery shopping and to request information society service providers to take down online content related to the sales of dangerous and non-compliant products.
- Facilitated reporting about accident and injury data at European level.

We consider it important to successfully conclude this legislative reform still under the current term of the European Parliament. The swift finalisation should by no means be put at risk through the support of amendments. We therefore **urge you to reject the amendments 215, 216, 217, 218 and 219 in order to preserve the outcome of the inter institutional agreement**. Consumers are already waiting for too long for a better legal framework which ensures product safety within the internal market.

We therefore trust that you will take the consumer interest into account when voting on this important file next week.

Best regards,

Sylvia Maurer
Director, Sustainability and Safety
BEUC

Chiara Giovannini
Deputy Secretary General
ANEC