

17 October 2013

MEPs from the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee today voted to strengthen EU product safety and market surveillance measures.

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

"Traceability is key to minimising the risk of faulty products. The source and whereabouts in the supply chain of a product need to be traced quickly in order to remove it from the market. MEPs have today helped to improve traceability by making it mandatory to put the manufacturer and importer's address on products, as well as the serial number.

"Roughly 5.7 million people are admitted to hospital annually as a result of injuries sustained in accidents¹. An EU-wide accident and injury data system, such as that supported today by the European Parliament, would help to systematically gather such data and give better insight on the causes of accidents.

"It is a major relief that MEPs have corrected the Commission's earlier unintelligible decision to remove the precautionary principle. Those who earn money by putting a product on the market should be able to prove it is safe. This basic consumer expectation should not be risked."

¹ EuroSafe, Injuries in the EU 2008-2010, Amsterdam 2013

<http://www.eurosafe.eu.com/csi/eurosafe2006.nsf/wwwVwContent/I3reportsonidb-1.htm>