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## **EU policymakers lack ambition to protect consumers from dangerous products sold online**

EU Member States (the Council of the EU) are following the approach of the European Parliament in not making online marketplaces liable for dangerous products sold online by third-party vendors using their platforms. This is BEUC's conclusion of [Member States' general approach](#) on the reform of EU product safety law, the General Product Safety Regulation, of which the text was published this Friday.

[Time](#) and [time again](#), BEUC finds online marketplaces to be a source of dangerous products. What strikes consumer organisations is that this issue is not being addressed, despite the Council [declaring](#) that "what is illegal offline should be illegal online" in the context of a parallel reform of e-commerce legislation. This principle is not heeded now.

### **BEUC Director General Monique Goyens said:**

*"Decision-makers have chosen to ignore the shortcomings of a fundamentally dysfunctional market, where certain third-party traders use online marketplaces to sell products that turn out to be unsafe or otherwise non-compliant. Online marketplaces do not consider it their responsibility to keep people safe in this context, while making a lot of revenue."*

*"Both EU Member States and the European Parliament are pushing the issue of dangerous products sold online like a hot potato between reforms of e-commerce, product safety, and product liability laws without any serious effort to tackle it."*

*"This lack of ambition puts pressure on market surveillance authorities, and therefore national budgets, who will have to do more checks to stem the flood of non-compliance and protect consumers."*

### **Next steps**

EU Member States will meet the European Parliament and Commission to reach a conclusion on this file. The file will afterwards go to a Parliament plenary session and to Council for final approval.

### **More information**

- Here a flavour of [why the reform of product safety law matters to consumers](#)
- The Parliament's [position on the reform of this law](#)

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