



Raising standards for consumers

ANEC

The European consumer voice in standardisation

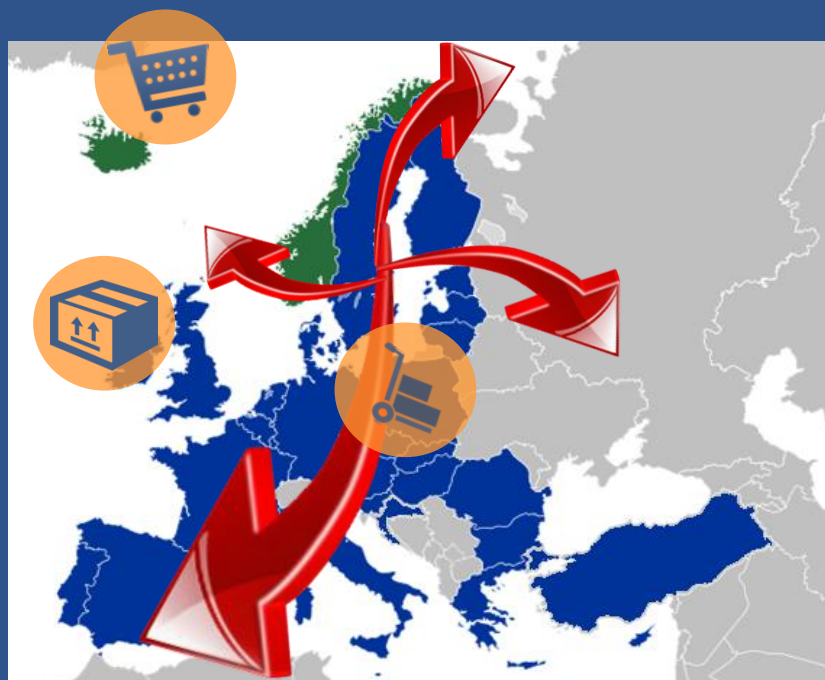
Dermott Jewell
President



THE SINGLE MARKET

Will We Play In Safe Facilities?

Prague 17th September 2019





The Legislative Environment

- ★ Under the 'New Approach' of 1985, the European legislator sets essential safety requirements through horizontal & sectoral European laws ('directives').
- ★ The three European Standardisation Organisations (CEN, CENELEC, ETSI) are invited (through a 'standardisation request' or 'mandate') to develop the European Standards (ENs) that provide the technical detail to support implementation of the directives.
- ★ These 'mandated' ENs are called 'harmonised standards' when their references are published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).
- ★ Although use of harmonised standards remains voluntary, a manufacturer can presume that the product complies with the law if it complies with the harmonised standard(s).
- ★ A product in compliance with the law is free to circulate throughout the European Economic Area (or 'Single Market').
- ★ The New Approach was the catalyst for the development of ENs not directly supporting legislation. Of today's total of about 20.000 ENs, only some 25% are 'harmonised standards'.
- ★ **KEY FACT** - All ENs are adopted as identical national standards in 34 countries.



The Problem

- ★ The New Approach is a model of 'co-regulation' (a private/public partnership). So too is the New Legislative Framework that incorporated the New Approach from 1 January 2010
- ★ European standardisation is a private activity and is based on the **national delegation principle** (as in ISO & IEC)
- ★ Yes, participation of all national stakeholders is encouraged in the development of European Standards . . . but (bigger) business has most to gain from influencing the content of standards and has the knowledge and resources to participate.
- ★ Business also tends to focus on meeting the needs of the "mainstream" or "average" consumer (costs lowest, profits highest)
- ★ Moreover, national consumer expertise in standardisation is fragmented in many countries or simply does not exist
- ★ Access to Standardisation study (March 2009):
 - ✓ "consumers are seen - even by themselves - as having both low commitment to national standardisation and insufficient knowledge"
 - ✓ "consumer interests are only marginally represented in many countries"

THE VALUE OF ANEC

The European Consumer Voice in Standardisation

- Established in 1995
- Aims to represent and defend the European consumer interest in a **continuum** of consumer protection and welfare
 - ✓ the development and revision of European **policies & laws** related to standards, consumer protection & welfare (often in liaison with BEUC)
 - ✓ (key mission) of **standardisation** (governance & technical levels of CEN, CENELEC & ETSI; sometimes technical level in ISO & IEC; UNECE, with CI)
 - ✓ the **use of standards** (conformity assessment, accreditation, market surveillance & enforcement)
- In 2019, ANEC participates in over **175 technical bodies** of CEN, CENELEC & ETSI, and in over **25 technical bodies** of ISO & IEC

THE GOVERNANCE OF ANEC



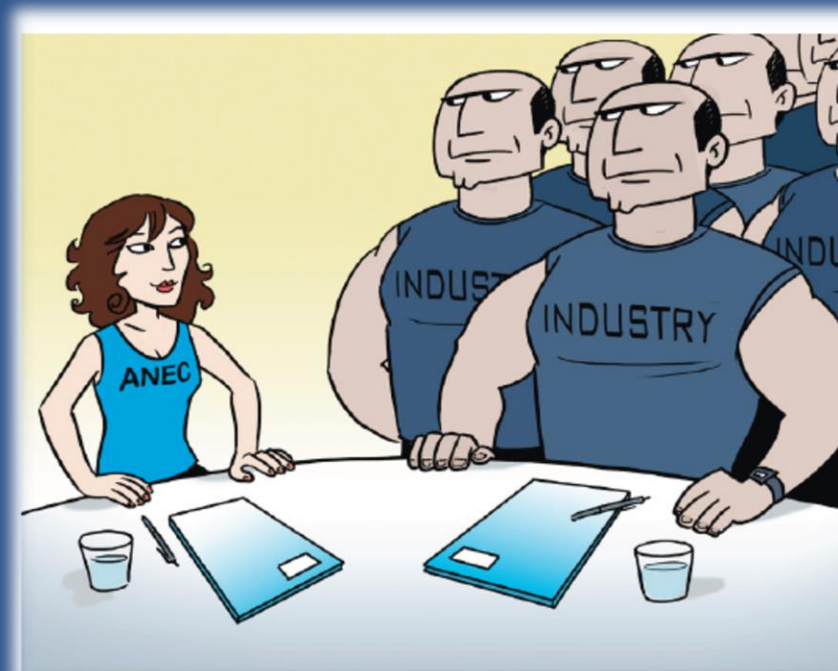
- Today, 34 countries are eligible for membership (28 EU Member States; 3 EFTA countries; North Macedonia, Serbia & Turkey)
- The General Assembly (ANEC/GA) is the supreme body
- Each country may nominate **ONE** person to represent **ALL** national consumer organisations in that country (31 nominations out of 34 in the present ANEC/GA)
- The member is chosen by consensus at national level
- He/she serves a four-year term as member of the ANEC/GA with re-appointment possible (present term started June 2019)
- Each country has one vote in the General Assembly
- There is **no** membership fee
- The ANEC/GA is supported by the ANEC Steering Committee (ANEC/SC), the board of the association (reserved seat for an EFTA country, taken by Norway)

So ANEC...

has provided the collective European consumer voice since 1995:

'The European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation'

(or 'The European consumer voice in standardisation')



THE NATIONAL DELEGATION PRINCIPLE



- An **essential but insufficient** platform for European standardisation
- Take the example of toy safety:
 - ✓ ANEC relies on **6** key experts from among its **34** countries to defend consumer interests
 - ✓ These experts speak directly for the consumer in CEN & CENELEC
 - ✓ Without ANEC, only **6** national delegations in CEN-CENELEC could call on consumer expertise
- **28** national delegations would feature **NO** consumer expertise

Warning!

Without ANEC, there would be no effective consumer voice in European standardisation



ANEC FACTS & FIGURES



- ANEC is an independent, private and not-for-profit association (AISBL).
- Membership mirrors CEN-CENELEC (34 countries) with national consumer organisations in each country nominating a national representative to the ANEC General Assembly.
- Relies on funding from the EU (95%) and EFTA (5%) for its core mission through annual grants made under Framework Partnership Agreements to 2020.
 - employs a central secretariat in Brussels as hub of the association
 - reimburses a network of **volunteer** experts from across Europe
 - funds a Technical Studies/subcontracting programme of 95.000€
- Added value of volunteer experts in 2014 calculated to be 390.000€
- Seven areas of priority agreed by the ANEC/GA:
 - Accessibility / Child Safety / Domestic Appliances / Digital Society (including Innovation) / Services / Sustainability / Traffic & Mobility

THE ANEC WORKING GROUPS (1)

- Each priority area is responsibility of a Working Group (WG) reporting to the General Assembly
- The WG members are:
 - ✓ **Consumer professionals** employed by a national consumer organisation or a national standards body
 - ✓ **Volunteers** endorsed by a national consumer organisation
 - ✓ **Experts** who are sympathetic to consumer positions and have clear links to the consumer movement
 - ✓ **Representatives** of national, European or international organisations whose work is relevant to the ANEC activities
- Each WG Chair is an observer member of the ANEC/GA
- Each WG secretariat is held by an ANEC Manager

THE ANEC WORKING GROUPS (2)

- Build strategies for the sector and allocate working priorities
- Define consumer requirements in the sector
- Define the ANEC Work Programme for the sector
- Provide technical expertise and advice in the sector
- Monitor standardisation activities and relevant legislation
- Comment on draft standards and other activities of standards bodies
- Support the development of technical position papers
- Brief delegates to the CEN, CENELEC or ETSI technical bodies
- Lobby at national level in support of the ANEC position
- Identify the research (“technical studies”) needed to underpin the technical work

ANEC PARTICIPATION

- Partner Organisation of
- Partner Organisation of
- Full member of
- Past member of
- Observer in ISO/COPOLCO
- Member of many EC expert groups



KEY PARTNERS IN THE CONSUMER FIELD

ANEC, BEUC, CI & ICRT signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** in 2016, in order to set a framework for dialogue among the four organisations, noting the common challenges faced by the consumer movement.



The European consumers' organisation



Consumers International



International Consumer Research & Testing Ltd

OTHER KEY PARTNERS

ECOS and ETUC are **societal** peers of ANEC among the Annex III Organisations. SBS is the Annex III Organisations representing small and medium-sized enterprises.



Environmental Citizens' Organisation for Standardisation (ECOS)



European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)



Small Business Standards (SBS)

THE EU STANDARDISATION REGULATION



- **Standardisation Regulation (EU) 1025/2012** was implemented on 1 January 2013. See <http://goo.gl/c2JpDx>. Consolidates all previous legislative and financial instruments related to the European Standardisation System (ESS).
- Sets out a new legal basis for financing the representation of weaker stakeholders and outlines political expectations.
- Annex III of the Regulation sets out categories of 'under-represented' stakeholders whom the European Commission may support through financing a representative European association. These '**Annex III Organisations**' are presently:
 - ✓ **Consumers** (ANEC)
 - ✓ **Environmental interests** (ECOS)
 - ✓ **Social (i.e. employee) interests** (ETUC)
 - ✓ **Small and medium-sized enterprises** (SBS)

SOME MORE FACTS & FIGURES



50.000+ experts
from business



**75 experts in CEN
committees** on behalf of
consumers



- The European Commission grants to the Annex III Organisations total around **4M€** each year.
- BUT this funding underpins public confidence in a European Standardisation System worth between **10B€** and **100B€**.

AN ANEC SUCCESS STORY

Inclusion of “vulnerable consumers” in the EN 60335-2 standards for domestic electrical appliances



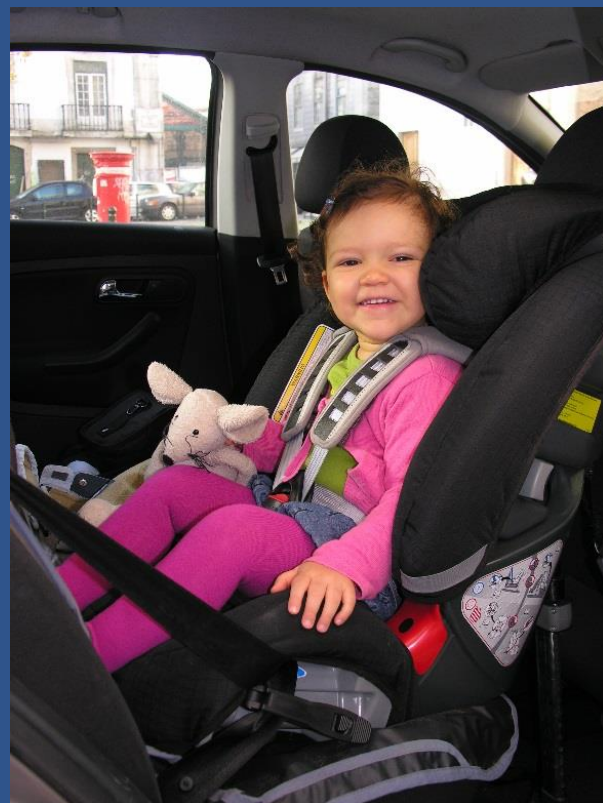
AN ANEC SUCCESS STORY

**Safe sound limits for Personal Music Players (PMPs)
(EN 60065:2002/A12:2011 & EN 60950-1:2006/A12:2011)**



AN ANEC SUCCESS STORY

Rearward-facing Child-Restraint Systems (UNECE R129 Regulation)



AN ANEC SUCCESS STORY

Child-resistant lighters (EN 13869)



ANEC PRIORITIES 2019



ANEC 2019 Work Programme is available at

- Strengthening the consumer voice in the European Standardisation System through the Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS), part of the European Commission's Single Market Strategy.
- Ensuring standards are not used instead of regulation but to complement it in Europe (Better Regulation Agenda).
- Encourage CEN, CENELEC & ETSI in their progress towards the inclusion of all stakeholders.
- Encourage services standardisation and continue to call for framework legislation on safety of services.
- Seeking that the Digital Single Market delivers for consumers through standards (and not only for multinationals).
- Continued implementation of the ANEC Strategy 2014 to 2020, including the diversification of ANEC funding.

ANEC's mission on child safety:

Enhance the quality and safety of children's lives by ensuring that European standardisation and legislation provide better protection for children and decrease the number of accidents in which children are involved.



Raising standards for consumers



Thank you !

www.anec.eu



ANEC is supported financially
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