



The European Consumer Voice in Standardisation, AISBL

Rue d'Arlon 80 – B-1040 Brussels, Belgium - phone +32-2-743 24 70

e-mail: anec@anec.eu - website: www.anec.eu - TVA/VAT :BE0457696181

High-Level Forum on European standardisation (HLFS)

First meeting – 20 January 2023

Speaking points and additional comments

Dermott Jewell (ANEC President)

I must thank you, Commissioner, and the Commission Services for appointing me to the High-Level Forum on behalf of ANEC. I am sorry my calendar means I cannot be with you in person today, but I trust I will be able to join you at the next meeting. It is indeed a great pleasure and honour to be able to contribute to the future standardisation priorities of the Union.

We in ANEC applaud the creation of the Forum. Indeed, we proposed such a roundtable in our comments on the roadmap for the Standardisation Strategy. Inclusiveness – or facilitating the participation of all stakeholders – is unique to the European Standardisation System. ANEC, as the collective voice of European consumers in standardisation, welcomes that inclusiveness is central to both the Standardisation Regulation and the Standardisation Strategy. We see it as a win-win for both economic and societal stakeholders. In our view, a European standard that meets the needs of both business and society can give European products and services a head start on the global stage. We believe it follows that there is advantage in European stakeholders in sitting together around the table and considering the new direction of standardisation policy.

Looking to our expectations from the Forum, we see the Commission proposes to extend the New Legislative Framework - and the use of standards - to aspects that are very different from the traditional role of providing the free circulation of goods. Here we have in mind many new proposals in the digital field, such as the AI Act and the Cyber Resilience Act. Yes, standards can be used to embed requirements at the design phase of the product, and to ensure compliance with legal requirements. However, our experience tells us there are limits to what standards can do, due to their technical nature and their means of elaboration.

Furthermore, in a world of clear geopolitical ambitions, we expect European standardisation to respect European values and fundamental rights, and not just to adopt International Standards that may not reflect our values and principles, especially in the digital field. Similarly, we have serious concerns about using standards to implement fundamental human rights, regardless of whether those standards be International or European.

There is more I could say but - noting the time - let me thank you and add that we look forward to the work ahead.



ANEC is supported financially by the European Union & EFTA

EU Transparency Register No. 507800799-30

Raising standards for consumers



Further comments

None of us needs reminding that the present energy and cost of living crises are putting huge pressure on consumers. We welcome a focus of the draft Annual Union Work Programme 2023 is on standards to help consumers navigate these uncertain times, both now and in the future.

Consumers are experiencing turbulence and great uncertainty in their lives, and standards need to allow them to make the easiest choices and best choices in terms of sustainability and energy use. To “help consumers in making informed choices”, it will be essential the standards for the Digital Product Passport require vital information being made offline - on the products - as well as online. We are all consumers, regardless of age or ability, and must be treated equally.

We welcome the plan for common wireless-charging solutions, in addition to wired-charging, as it is important to avoid fragmentation. However, consideration should be given to the energy performance of wireless charging in order to increase the current levels of performance.

We need new standards to address technological developments in the toy and entertainment fields. We must address the metaverse and the world of augmented reality to ensure safety and security, and mitigate risks such as identity theft, ransomware and deepfake videos. The standards here could provide the opportunity for European providers to offer solutions based on security requirements for novel authentication and encryption systems, access control, accessibility and malicious activity detection, so respecting our European values and principles.

ANEC in Brief

ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending the collective consumer interest in the development of (technical) standards and use of standards, as well as in related legislation and public policies.

ANEC was established in 1995 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law and is open to the representation of consumers in 34 countries. Its core mission is funded by the EU and EFTA, with national consumer organisations contributing in kind.

The ANEC Secretariat is based in Brussels.

www.anec.eu