



Press Release

European Accessibility Act

Standards to make products and services accessible for European consumers

2 December 2015

ANEC-PR-2015-PRL-008

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ANEC welcomes the European Commission's proposal today to facilitate the accessibility of products and services through standards¹. For many years, we have been pressing for regulatory action to increase access to everyday products and services for consumers of all ages and abilities².

ANEC Secretary-General, Stephen Russell, said, "From the beginning, ensuring the safety and accessibility of products and services for older consumers and those with disabilities has been key among our priorities. ANEC supports the use of standards to make products and services safe and accessible to all consumers, whatever their impairment, age or characteristic. This is because standards determine the way in which a product or a service is designed or provided, before it is placed on the market".

Mr Russell added, "No matter how good a standard, it will not help accessibility if it is not implemented. We therefore proposed the legislation establishes a market surveillance system of public authorities, either harmonised at the European level or at least very well coordinated and resourced. We are pleased the Commission picked up on our proposal. But we are less enthusiastic about use of the CE marking to signal the accessibility of products, and will need to raise this with the European Parliament and Council of Ministers, as consumers should not be the intended audience for CE marking and are often confused by it".

ENDS

¹ <http://goo.gl/OXXIsu>

² <http://goo.gl/a5dHrF>

About ANEC

ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending consumer interests in the processes of technical standardisation and conformity assessment, as well as 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 national consumer organisations in 33 countries.

ANEC is funded by the European Union and EFTA, with national consumer organisations contributing in kind. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels.



Raising standards for consumers

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ANEC is supported financially by the European Union & EFTA

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