



ANEC statement for STAND4ALL project final workshop

11 March 2010, Brussels
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank the STAND4ALL consortium members for their considerable work as well as the meeting organisers for inviting me on behalf of ANEC, the European Consumer Voice in Standardisation, to present our views and expectations from the STAND4ALL project.

Before I begin, I would like to briefly summarise ANEC's involvement in the STAND4ALL trainings, you already know about ANEC from my previous presentation.

In March 2009, ANEC was invited to provide some experts as trainers for the Stand4All project, a EU financed service contract aimed at training standardisation experts on the use of CEN/CENELEC Guide 6. The project, which is run by a consortium composed by NEN, BSI and AENOR, plans to organise several training session.

ANEC nominated two experts, Gill Whitney and myself, as potential trainers and contributed to the Stand4All project questionnaire on the structure of the training modules and training needs.

I participated in the Stand4All pilot training in Utrecht on 7 September 2009, where the ANEC role was agreed. ANEC will provide a role play exercise for the trainees about the revision of a relevant standard in a meeting of a Technical Committee. ANEC expert Gill Whitney participated in the October session while I attended the November 2009 one.

ANEC developed and run a role-play. It consists in an example of "learning by doing" for consumers experts who wish to know more about standardisation. The negotiating exercise requires trainees to participate in a fiction standards meeting and play a role assigned to them and argue their argument. As you have heard my previous presentation, the ANEC role-play was very much appreciated by the trainees who felt they learn "useful tips" on how to "survive in a standardisation meeting"!

What are consumer expectations from STAND4ALL?

I can be very short and clear on that: Consumers expect that the products they find in the shops are accessible, whatever their age and abilities. In order for products to be easy to use by all consumers, standards need to be developed to cover the needs of all consumers.

ANEC called on the European Standards Bodies and the European Commission to take an initiative aimed at providing Technical Committees with the specialist knowledge needed to meet the requirements of older and disabled people in the Updated ANEC Policy Statement on Design for All, issued in September 2007¹.

It is a revision of the ANEC Design for all Policy Statement, first released in 2003, the European Year of People with Disabilities, which urged the implementation of CEN/CENELEC Guide 6 "Guidelines for standard developers to address the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities" in the drafting of European Standards. Noting the very low use of Guide 6 in CEN in 2007, European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, DFA WG members believed that standards should now be required to take into account the needs of older people and people with disabilities.

In March 2008, CEN members agreed to set up a Working Group (WG) "Implementation of CEN/CLC Guide 6"² to develop a Business Plan on how to better implement CEN/CENELEC Guide 6 Guidelines for standards developers to address the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities in the CEN system. The Business Plan is currently being drafted.

ANEC looks forward for standards reflecting the needs of consumers of all ages and abilities to be developed and implemented. It goes without saying that only then will it be possible for us to evaluate the impact of any training activity. It also goes without saying that we expect the Commission and the European Standardisation Bodies to continue to fruitfully collaborate in order to deliver results without further delay. And of course, from our side, consumers will continue to actively contribute to this important undertaking. As one step of the process, STAND4ALL can be very useful.

Thank you very much for your attention!

¹ ANEC-DFA-2007-G-043rev

² CEN BT resolution 86/2007



About ANEC

ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, representing and defending consumer interests in the process of standardisation and certification, also in policy and legislation related to standardisation. Our aim is a high level of consumer protection. ANEC was set up in 1995 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law. It represents consumer organisations from the European Union Member States and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries. Our General Assembly is composed of one national member per country, nominated jointly by the national consumer organisations in their country. The European Commission and EFTA fund ANEC, while national

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