



*Raising standards for consumers*

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2022



# FOREWORD BY THE ANEC PRESIDENT



This new-look report reflects a review and renewal of our ability to better engage as the world sought to exit from the restrictions and limitations that COVID-19 had demanded of us all. Despite the many challenges presented, ANEC has never lacked the drive nor limited its energy in meeting the demands of our position as the consumer voice in standardisation, a role that was confirmed and reinforced through the adoption of our new Statutes in June. This report outlines and confirms, in impressive detail, our commitment to and successful delivery of our work programme and our Operating Grant Agreement for 2022.

All that is reported upon has been realised through the continued input and commitment of the ANEC members, experts and staff. Across this period, the focus and dedicated deliberations of the working groups is clearly evidenced. The continued influence of ANEC is further referenced now by the appointment of ANEC representatives to the new ISO/COPOLCO working groups. These appointments recognise the value of the knowledge and significant expertise that ANEC contributes to the work of ISO, and our wish for consumers globally to benefit from what we have achieved at European level.

ANEC has followed through with its commitment toward diversification in terms of funding. This is decidedly resource intensive work that has allowed successful engagement and opportunities in partnership that will hopefully carry forward for many years to come. This has to be remembered above and beyond the time our experts dedicate to ANEC annually, something we valued conservatively at over 500.000€ a few years ago, and estimated to be 620.000€ in 2022.

I have previously commented how European standards bring benefits to both the consumer and to business, and how they determine the level of trust that consumers have in the quality, efficiency and safety of products and services. The year came to a close with advice of the establishment of the High Level Forum in Standardisation (HLFS) that forms a centrepiece of the Standardisation Strategy.

The HLFS is supported by three Sherpa Groups – Digital, Green and Resilience – all actively in engaged work that will help shape the future Annual Union Work Programmes for European Standardisation, and focus on the detail of European standards, their development and their use. ANEC welcomes that inclusiveness is central to both the Standardisation Regulation and the Standardisation Strategy. There is clear advantage in European stakeholders sitting together around the table and considering the new direction of standardisation policy.

The enormous support and resources of the European Commission, EFTA and our partners underpin our ability to meet our mission and focus on the constantly changing needs of the millions of consumers who rely upon our expertise and our committed engagement on their behalf.

It continues to be my honour to represent ANEC as its President and to present this report to you, with enormous pride, on behalf of this unique organisation. My sincere appreciation and thanks go to each and every one of my colleagues and friends in the ANEC community.

Kind regards,

**Dermott JEWELL**  
ANEC President

# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022

## WE'VE RUN THE NUMBERS AND...



**12** Numbers of webinars held

**456**

Sets of comments submitted on draft standards

**52**

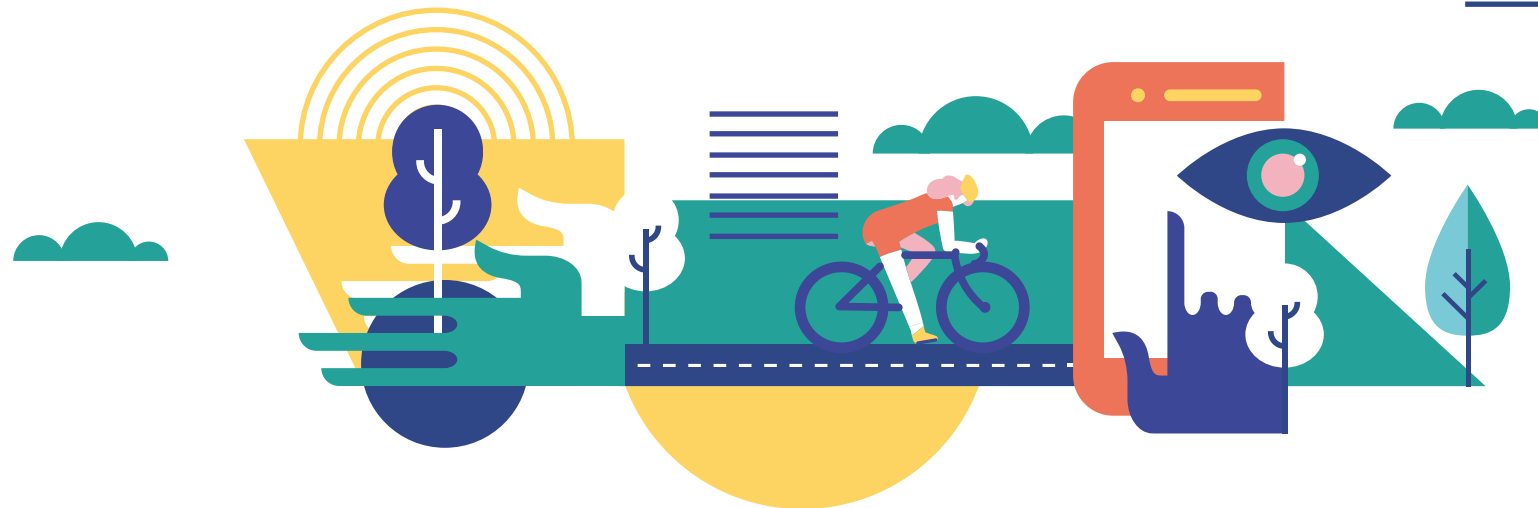
Opinions submitted to CEN-CENELEC:

 **36 Favourable**

 **16 Not Favourable**

**12**

Position papers and similar



**185**

Individual experts

**7**

Media releases

**683**

Meetings attended

**579 of which were technical**

Individual expert days in 2022 valued at **620.000€**

The individual experts briefed **65** ANEC Representatives who participated in

**368** People trained

**237** technical bodies of CEN-CENELEC and ETSI, and more than

**25** technical bodies of ISO and IEC

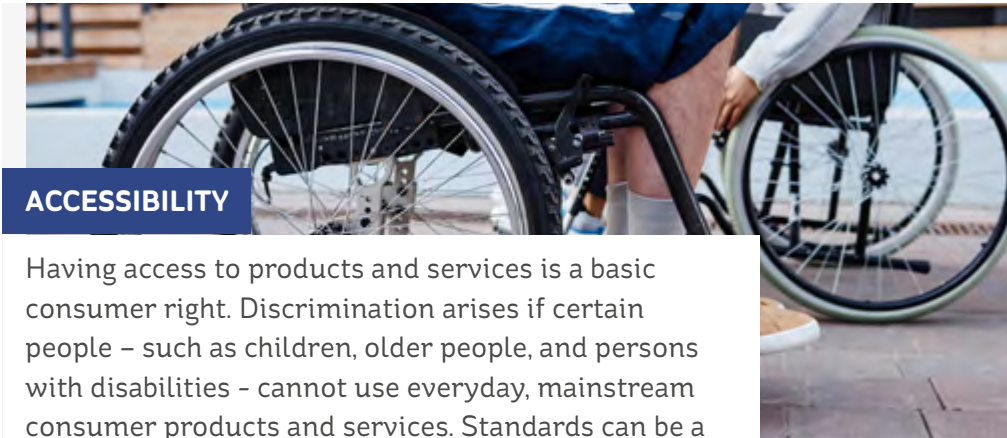


**1044** Newsletter recipients

**3029** Twitter followers

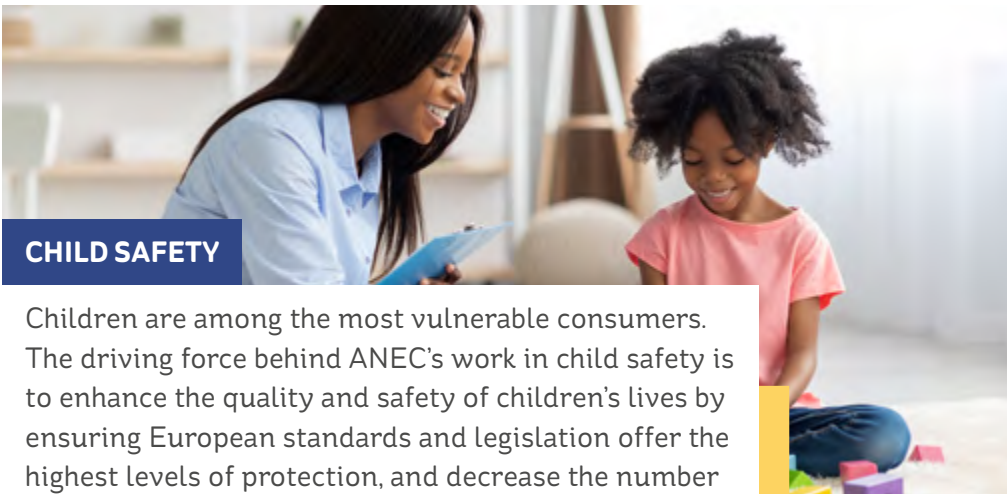
**1878** LinkedIn followers

## ANEC'S AREAS OF PRIORITY



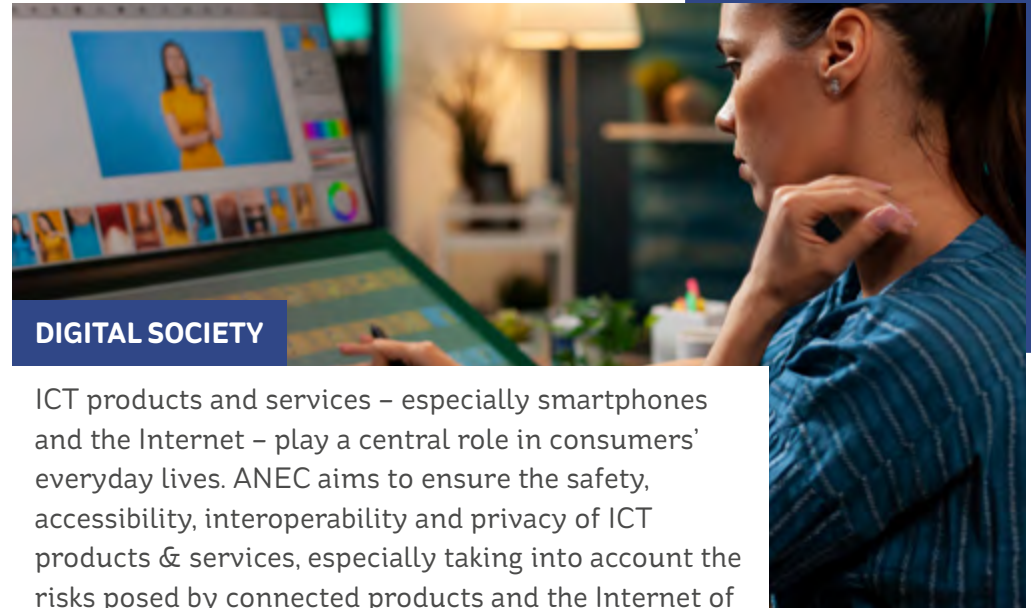
### ACCESSIBILITY

Having access to products and services is a basic consumer right. Discrimination arises if certain people – such as children, older people, and persons with disabilities – cannot use everyday, mainstream consumer products and services. Standards can be a valuable solution to overcoming this bias if Design for All principles are applied.



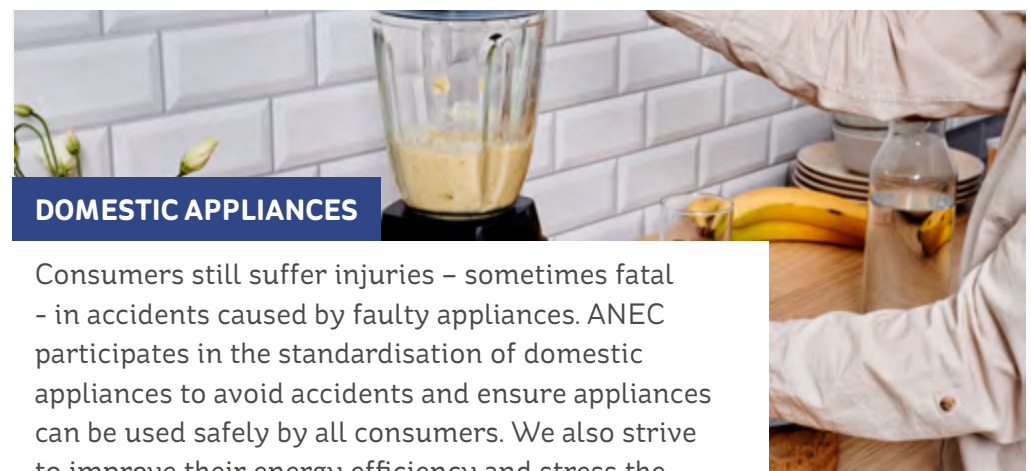
### CHILD SAFETY

Children are among the most vulnerable consumers. The driving force behind ANEC's work in child safety is to enhance the quality and safety of children's lives by ensuring European standards and legislation offer the highest levels of protection, and decrease the number of accidents where children are involved.



### DIGITAL SOCIETY

ICT products and services – especially smartphones and the Internet – play a central role in consumers' everyday lives. ANEC aims to ensure the safety, accessibility, interoperability and privacy of ICT products & services, especially taking into account the risks posed by connected products and the Internet of Things.



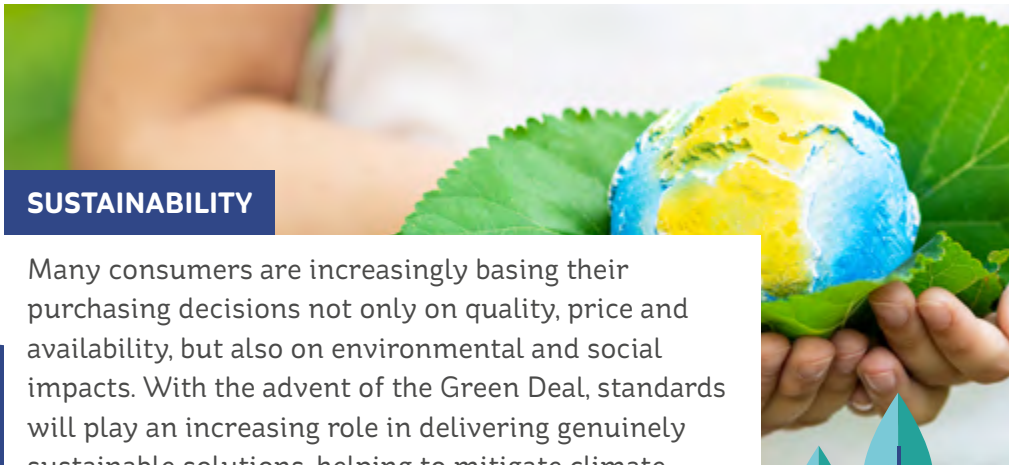
### DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

Consumers still suffer injuries – sometimes fatal – in accidents caused by faulty appliances. ANEC participates in the standardisation of domestic appliances to avoid accidents and ensure appliances can be used safely by all consumers. We also strive to improve their energy efficiency and stress the importance of Ecodesign.



**SERVICES**

In today's service-oriented economy, ANEC aims to ensure the safety and quality of services for all consumers. We contribute to standards that lessen the potential risks of certain services – such as healthcare and tourism – and increase the quality provisions of other services of general interest.



**SUSTAINABILITY**

Many consumers are increasingly basing their purchasing decisions not only on quality, price and availability, but also on environmental and social impacts. With the advent of the Green Deal, standards will play an increasing role in delivering genuinely sustainable solutions, helping to mitigate climate change and avoiding traps for the unwary such as “greenwashing”.



**TRAFFIC & MOBILITY**

ANEC addresses both the active and passive aspects of road safety. These include ensuring that child-restraints systems in vehicles provide the highest levels of safety practicable; road safety measures cover vulnerable consumers; traditional and newer powered-forms of light vehicles are safe, and that environmental priorities do not jeopardise the safety of motor vehicles or road users.



## WE LOOKED TO SHAPE LEGISLATION AND POLICY...



### IN SUPPORT OF THE EU STANDARDISATION STRATEGY

On 2 February 2022, the EC published a package on standardisation. It included the much anticipated EU Standardisation Strategy which included a proposal to create a High-Level Forum on Standardisation.

ANEC Secretary-General, Stephen Russell, said “In its comments on the Roadmap for the Standardisation Strategy, ANEC stressed the need for a high-level group to build and maintain a new dialogue between the EC and the stakeholders of European standardisation. We are therefore delighted to understand that the EC will create a High-Level Forum to ensure European standardisation meets the needs to make the EU economy greener, digital and resilient”.

**ANEC media release:** <https://tinyurl.com/3c93a4nh>

**ANEC comments on Roadmap:** <https://tinyurl.com/2jaj7by5>

**EU Standardisation Strategy:** <https://tinyurl.com/2p8kcmp4>

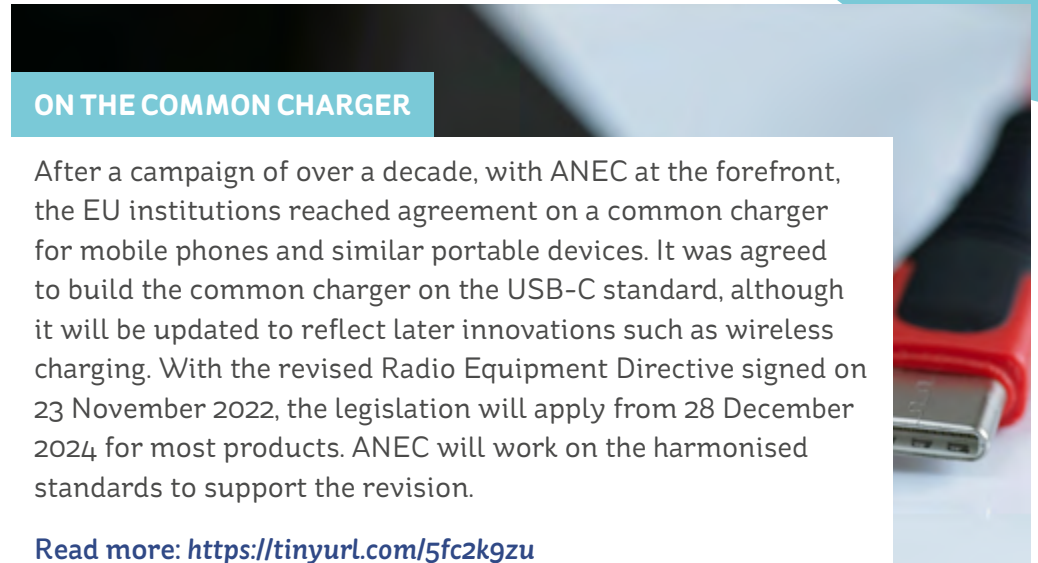


### ON EUROPEAN STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

ANEC lobbied support for amendment of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 to allow only EEA countries to vote on the development and adoption of harmonised standards. This was adopted on 14 December 2022 as Regulation (EU) 2022/2480.

**ANEC position:** <https://tinyurl.com/ysv38jk8>

**Regulation (EU) 2022/2480:** <https://tinyurl.com/mvs6pnfw>

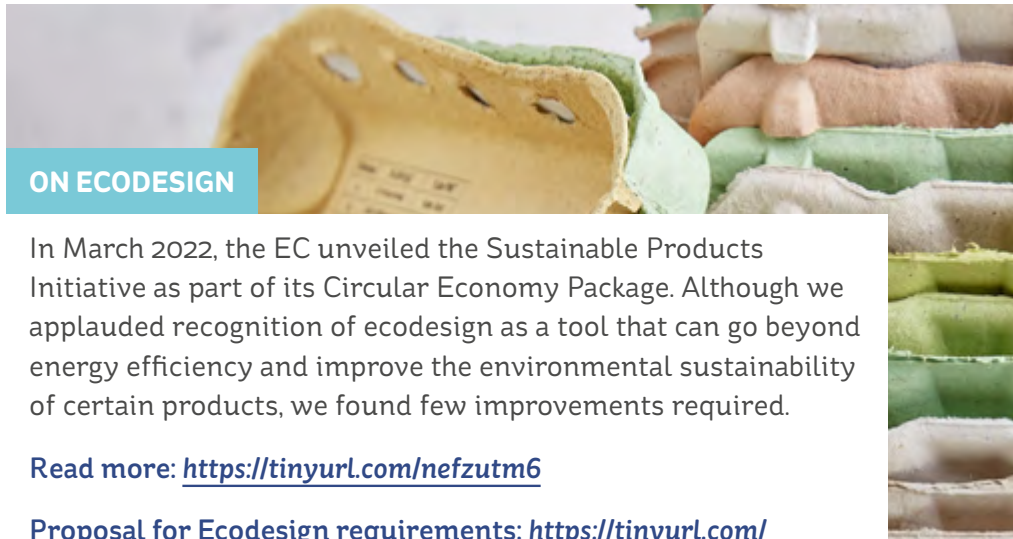


### ON THE COMMON CHARGER

After a campaign of over a decade, with ANEC at the forefront, the EU institutions reached agreement on a common charger for mobile phones and similar portable devices. It was agreed to build the common charger on the USB-C standard, although it will be updated to reflect later innovations such as wireless charging. With the revised Radio Equipment Directive signed on 23 November 2022, the legislation will apply from 28 December 2024 for most products. ANEC will work on the harmonised standards to support the revision.

**Read more:** <https://tinyurl.com/5fc2k9zu>

**EP briefing:** <https://tinyurl.com/mdxhd2bu>

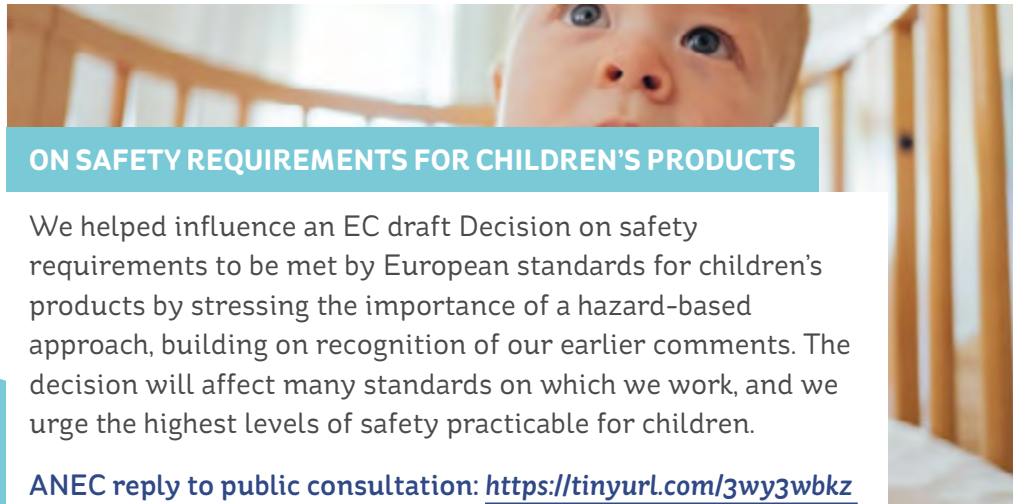


### ON ECODESIGN

In March 2022, the EC unveiled the Sustainable Products Initiative as part of its Circular Economy Package. Although we applauded recognition of ecodesign as a tool that can go beyond energy efficiency and improve the environmental sustainability of certain products, we found few improvements required.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/nefzutm6>

Proposal for Ecodesign requirements: <https://tinyurl.com/mwvn4eac>



### ON SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS

We helped influence an EC draft Decision on safety requirements to be met by European standards for children's products by stressing the importance of a hazard-based approach, building on recognition of our earlier comments. The decision will affect many standards on which we work, and we urge the highest levels of safety practicable for children.

ANEC reply to public consultation: <https://tinyurl.com/3wy3wbkz>

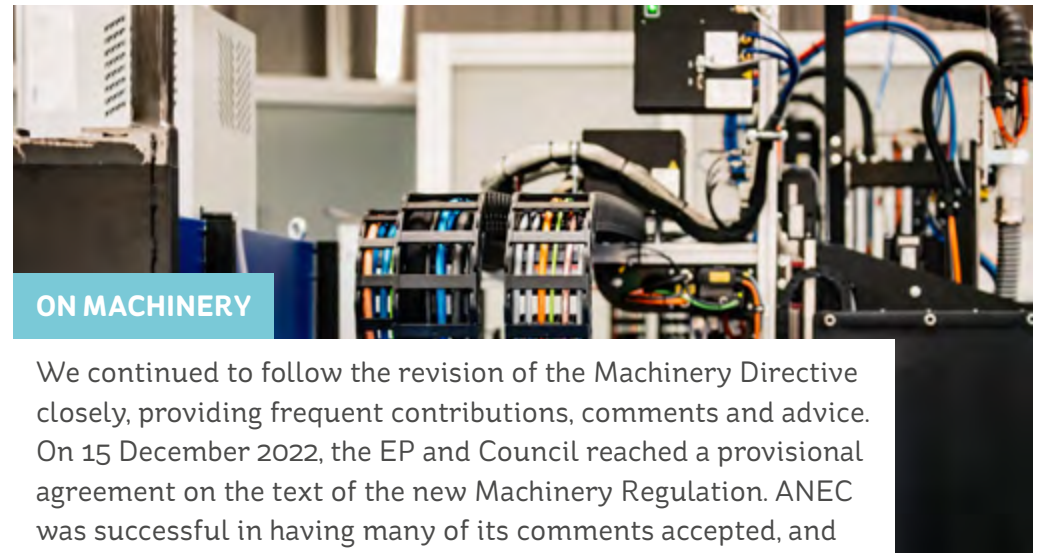
Annex to EC draft Decision: <https://tinyurl.com/4w4kcx8>



### ON ACCESSIBILITY

Directive (EU) 2019/882, on accessibility requirements for products and services, makes use of harmonised standards which will have to be developed to provide presumption of conformity with the legal requirements from June 2025. July 2022 saw publication of the SReq, reflecting the comments we sent with the European Disability Forum (EDF).

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6bvn6r>



### ON MACHINERY

We continued to follow the revision of the Machinery Directive closely, providing frequent contributions, comments and advice. On 15 December 2022, the EP and Council reached a provisional agreement on the text of the new Machinery Regulation. ANEC was successful in having many of its comments accepted, and was thanked for its further advice provided in the margins of the trilogue negotiations.





**ON SHORT-TERM RENTALS**

We published a position on the EC proposal for a Regulation to enhance the transparency of short-term accommodation rentals, stressing that there are existing standards and guidelines that could be helpful in the development of the Regulation in the context of the collaborative economy.

<https://tinyurl.com/ymghd9zk>

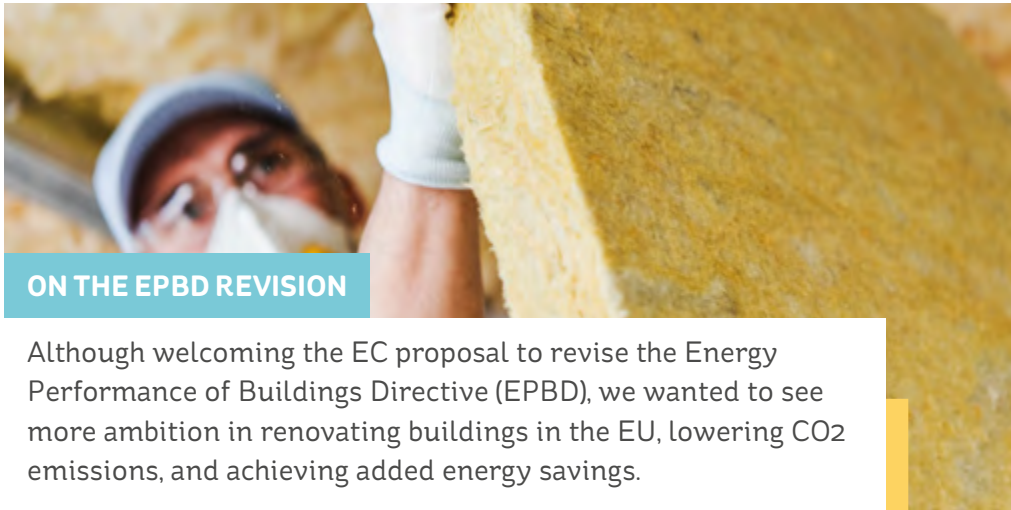


**ON NEW PACKAGING RULES**

We had a mixed reaction to the EC proposal for a Regulation on Packaging and Packaging Waste as it recognised important requirements on prevention and reuse, but focused on recyclable packaging and use of recycled content in plastic packaging. We wanted its reuse targets to be more ambitious, and further restrictions on substances of concern.

ANEC media release: <https://tinyurl.com/mpf57nwz>

ANEC position paper: <https://tinyurl.com/yrhmxs33>



**ON THE EPBD REVISION**

Although welcoming the EC proposal to revise the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), we wanted to see more ambition in renovating buildings in the EU, lowering CO2 emissions, and achieving added energy savings.

<https://tinyurl.com/5c9zsrff>



**ON RECYCLED PLASTICS IN FOOD PACKAGING**

We published a position to alert the EU institutions to the presence of unwelcome chemicals in recycled plastics.

ANEC position paper: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8tach6>



**ON CRS IN BUSES**

As the lone voice of consumers in UNECE work on automotive and road user safety, we saw adoption of a proposal on the adaptation of Child Restraint Systems (CRS) to buses. It should see greater protection of younger children travelling by bus.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/2trjzt9d>



**ON CONNECTED AND AUTOMATED CARS**

In 2022, we replied to two EC public consultations related to technical specifications for automated cars and to vehicle data functions and collection. This field of development is a key consumer concern as the EU has announced the massive deployment of connected and automated technologies to improve road safety and reach its climate objectives.

ANEC reply on automated cars: <https://tinyurl.com/5brr9aeb>

ANEC reply on vehicle data functions and collection: <https://tinyurl.com/bdzpppyf>



**ON POSTAL SERVICES**

ANEC welcomed acceptance by CEN of a SReq on postal services. The SReq reflects our position on the quality of postal services and our proposals to use examples of best practice in order to avoid negative impacts on the environment.





## WE INFLUENCED STANDARDS



### ON DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

As part of our flagship campaign to ensure standards for electrical appliances allow their safe use by all consumers, IEC TC 61 has become supportive of our proposal to require its standards to test for access of a young child's finger through inclusion of a provision to use "test probe 19". As a result, millions of domestic household appliances sold annually will soon offer increased protection to children.



### ON BABY NESTS

Through CEN/TC 252/WG2, CEN agreed to our proposal to consider the safety of babies when using baby nests. Our view is that baby nests raise the risks of SIDS, suffocation, entrapment, and strangulation, especially suffocation.

**ANEC Technical Study:** <https://tinyurl.com/bdhjch2>

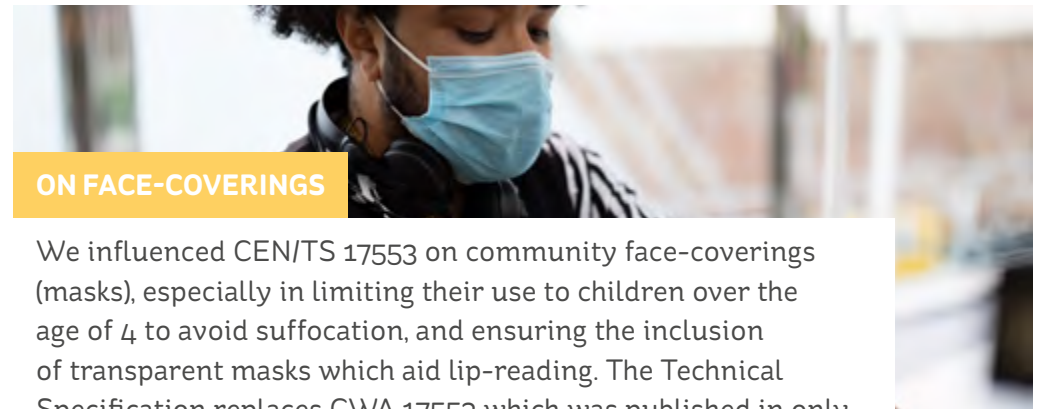


### ON CHILDREN'S SLEEP BAGS

Through CEN/TC 248/WG34, CEN agreed to our proposal not to allow openings for a car seat harness in sleep bags to avoid potential misuse. Many existing sleep bags include openings to allow the child to be moved to and from a car in comfort.

Unfortunately, the combination of car seat and sleep bag has not been standardised by textile or car seat manufacturers. Car-seat tests with dummies wearing thick jackets have shown the risks arising from such clothing during crashes. Separately, sleep bags are similar in their warmth to winter coats and could lead to the child suffering hyperthermia.

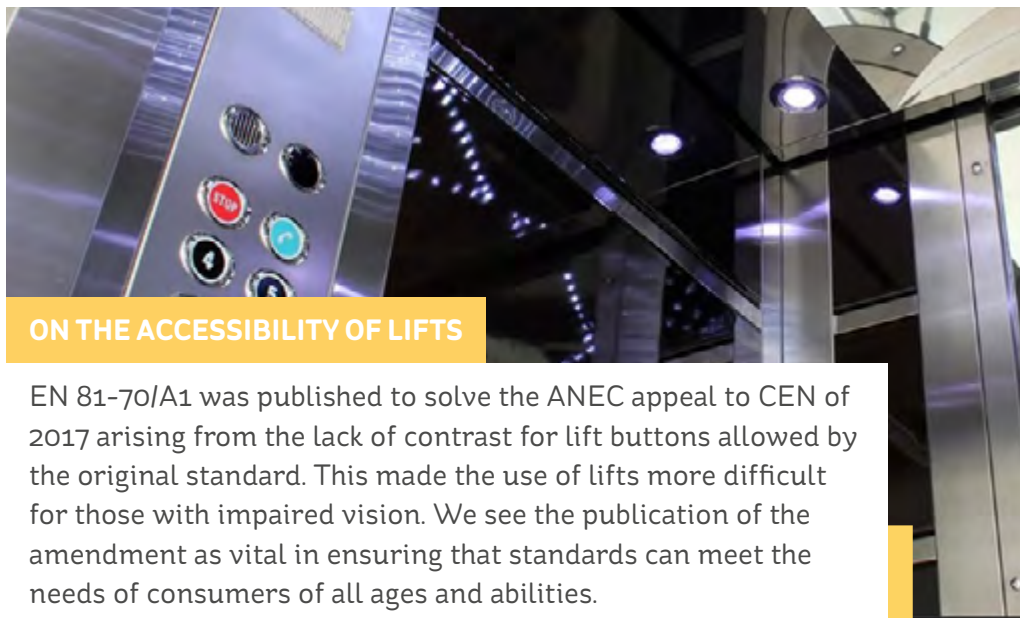
**Read more:** <https://tinyurl.com/bd9vdd5r>



### ON FACE-COVERINGS

We influenced CEN/TS 17553 on community face-coverings (masks), especially in limiting their use to children over the age of 4 to avoid suffocation, and ensuring the inclusion of transparent masks which aid lip-reading. The Technical Specification replaces CWA 17553 which was published in only 6 weeks, with ANEC's help, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Read more:** <https://tinyurl.com/ynar8nzb>



### ON THE ACCESSIBILITY OF LIFTS

EN 81-70/A1 was published to solve the ANEC appeal to CEN of 2017 arising from the lack of contrast for lift buttons allowed by the original standard. This made the use of lifts more difficult for those with impaired vision. We see the publication of the amendment as vital in ensuring that standards can meet the needs of consumers of all ages and abilities.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/4sk7737b>



### ON E-COMMERCE

The revision of ISO 10008, which addresses customer satisfaction in business-to-consumer electronic commerce transactions was adopted in June 2022. We influenced the provisions of the standard on services, accessibility, vulnerability, safety, data protection, the online marketplace and Artificial Intelligence.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/2x3dmauu>



### ON CIRCUMVENTION

Within the framework of CENELEC/TC 59X, ANEC has been active in work to combat the circumvention by manufacturers of standards on vacuum cleaners.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/4xayyecz>



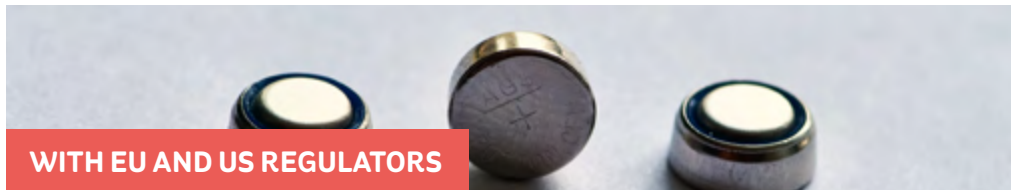
## WE CONTINUED TO BUILD OUR PARTNERSHIPS



### #WECHOOSE REUSE

On 27 October, ANEC joined the #WeChooseReuse campaign. It campaigns for ambitious and robust reuse solutions to the plastic pollution crisis. Over 100.000 citizens, NGOs, businesses and municipalities across the EU have signed-up to its commitment.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/s68m4x78>



### WITH EU AND US REGULATORS

ANEC spoke at a joint EU/US workshop in September on hazards linked to button battery ingestion and how to address them. We welcome the attention policy-makers are giving to the issue, as the ingestion of batteries by children can have fatal consequences. We shall continue to raise awareness of the dangers linked to button (or coin) batteries, and remind standardisers to take the risks into account in standards for consumer products.

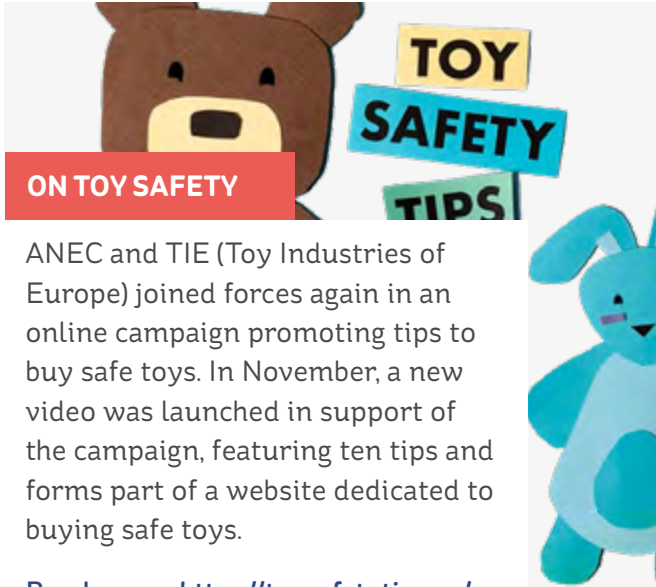


### TO IMPROVE FIRE SAFETY

As a member of the Steering Committee of the EUFireStat project, we supported its final draft report and suggested including “near misses” as an important aspect for future fire safety considerations. We also attended a meeting to restart the Fire Information Exchange Platform (FIEP), where we shared ideas for discussion. Later, we attended a FIEP meeting on electrical fire safety which highlighted the relationship between energy poverty and fire risk. Last but not least, we joined a high-level discussion in the EP to discuss fire safety in the context of the renovation wave, bringing together MEPs and stakeholders.

More on EUFireStat: <https://tinyurl.com/yc7x5cx9>

More on FIEP: <https://tinyurl.com/7edjwwne>



**ON TOY SAFETY**

ANEC and TIE (Toy Industries of Europe) joined forces again in an online campaign promoting tips to buy safe toys. In November, a new video was launched in support of the campaign, featuring ten tips and forms part of a website dedicated to buying safe toys.

Read more: <https://toysafetytips.eu/>



**SUPPORTING WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY**

On March 15, ANEC joined a global campaign to mark World Consumer Rights Day and its 2022 theme of Fair Digital Finance and the impact that advocacy can bring to the benefit of consumers across the world.

**SHARED VISION FOR A BETTER WORLD**

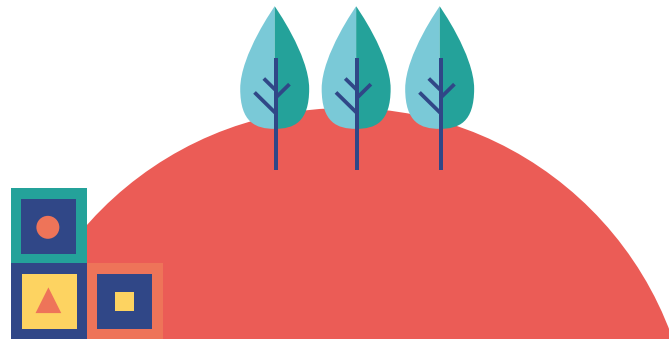


**SUPPORTING WORLD STANDARDS DAY**

On 14 October, ANEC joined the global campaign to promote the theme, “Shared vision for a better world: Standards for SDGs” to which the celebration of World Standards Day was dedicated in 2022.

We ran a social media campaign focused on “How can standards contribute to building a sustainable and resilient world?”, noting our work to help achieve SDG 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities”, and SDG 13 “Climate action”.

STANDARDS FOR SDGS  
WORLD STANDARDS DAY  
14 OCTOBER





**WITH FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS**

In December, we welcomed a COFACE Families Europe webinar on the Giant's House. It is a Belgian exhibition which aims to raise awareness of the importance of child safety in the household. In the Giant's House, each object is tripled in size, allowing one to see it through the eyes of a small child. As adults walk through the rooms, they discover the risks and the best ways to prevent accidents involving children. We support the initiative and hope it can be introduced in other countries.

See a presentation on the Giant's House: <https://bit.ly/3R8iv4w>

See the video: <https://bit.ly/3j7K69l>



**WITH BROADER CIVIL SOCIETY**

In November, ANEC and other civil society organisations sent an open letter to EC President von der Leyen, Executive Vice-President Timmermans, Commissioners Sinkevičius and Breton, calling for prevention and reuse to be kept at the core of packaging law.

Read the letter: <https://tinyurl.com/4vc3zvup>





## WE'VE SHARED THE FACTS

ANEC FACTSHEET ON THE CYBER RESILIENCE ACT (CRA)

<https://tinyurl.com/yc52567w>



ANEC-BEUC FACTSHEET ON THE ECODSIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS REGULATION

<https://tinyurl.com/bdfzc34.d>







## ON THE RADAR IN 2023



### EC HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON STANDARDISATION (HLFS)

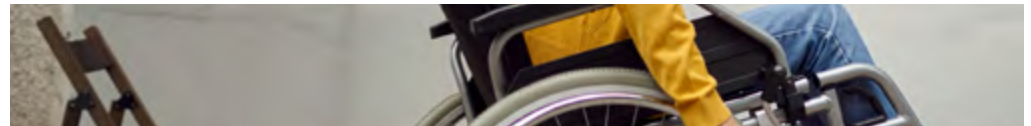
ANEC appreciates that inclusiveness is central to both the Standardisation Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 and the EU Standardisation Strategy. We see it as a win-win for both economic and societal stakeholders as European standards that meet the needs of both business and society can give European products and services a head start on the global stage. This message was reinforced by ANEC President, Dermott Jewell, at the kick-off meeting of the HLFS on 20 January 2023. ANEC intends to discuss the use of standards in the definition of fundamental rights, and borderline between standardisation and regulation, in this first year of the HLFS. We plan to work with BEUC on both themes.

**President's speaking notes at HLFS meeting:** <https://tinyurl.com/2mzhftmf>

### TOY SAFETY DIRECTIVE

An EC proposal for a revised Toy Safety Directive (TSD) is expected during the first half of 2023. We welcome the intended objectives and will follow the revision process with BEUC.

**ANEC reply to EC consultation:** <https://tinyurl.com/3n3tv8b7>



### PUSHING FOR ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

ANEC supported the EC Standardisation Request (SReq) for Harmonised Standards that will provide presumption of conformity to the European Accessibility Act (EAA). We shall participate in the elaboration of the standards during 2023.

We will also work on revision of: EN 301 549 'Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services; EN 17161 'Design for all - Accessibility following a design for all approach product, boots and services - Extending the range of users', and EN 17210 'Accessibility and usability on the built environment functional requirements'.

**Read more:** <https://tinyurl.com/2p9zfjky>



**SReq ON GAS**

Following the publication of the Gas Appliances Regulation (GAR) 2016/426/EU, a draft SReq has been developed, and is expected to be adopted before summer 2023, with the aim of revising the European standards for gas appliances.

ANEC welcomes the draft SReq as it addresses our concerns on surface temperature limits and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Although CO is a well-known cause of acute poisoning which can be fatal, long-term exposure to low levels of CO is also harmful to health.



**STANDARDS FOR TRUSTWORTHY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

ANEC will focus on AI trustworthiness in the response to the EC SReq on AI sent to CEN-CENELEC. The request is for Harmonised Standards to support presumption of conformity to the EU AI Act. Trustworthiness embraces all the key aspects of AI that are essential in the European society.

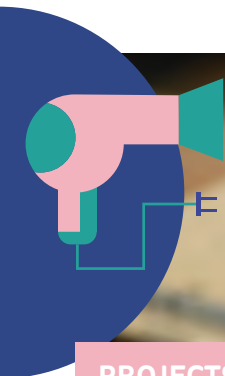
Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/39v6nfew>



**REALIFESTANDARDS**

ANEC and ECOS were successful in a common grant application to the EU LIFE programme to continue our long-standing collaboration on Ecodesign and Energy Labelling standards. The new project will last three years, from 2023 to 2026, and will enable ANEC and ECOS to strengthen the representation of civil society in related standardisation.





### PROJECTS IN SUSTAINABILITY

The **PROMPT Project** that developed testing to address premature obsolescence of TVs, washing machines, vacuum cleaners and mobile phones came to an end in May 2023. We shall report on its outcomes in our next Annual Review.

Nevertheless, we remain active as member of the consortium behind the **SmartLivingEPC Project**. It aims to guarantee that the next generation of energy performance certification schemes for buildings will support the transition towards a net zero emission building stock by 2050.

**PROMPT website:** <https://tinyurl.com/3549jdsv>

**SmartLivingEPC website:** <https://tinyurl.com/4te35enr>



### GREEN CLAIMS - WHAT CONSUMERS WANT!

**ANEC media release:** <https://tinyurl.com/m8ee532s>

## WHAT IS ANEC?

ANEC, **the European consumer voice in standardisation**, is an international not-for-profit association (AISBL) established in Brussels in 1995. ANEC is recognised under Annex III to Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 on European standardisation.

Its core aim is **to promote, defend and represent the collective interests of consumers** from 34 countries in the work of the three European

Standardisation Organisations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI) and in similar organisations whose technical **standards, specifications or guidance** documents may affect consumers, either directly or indirectly (e.g. ISO, IEC, UNECE). It does so by bringing together experts from the countries of its membership who define collective positions in the consumer interest. The experts belong to one or more of the ANEC Working Groups established in its areas of priority.

ANEC represents the collective consumer interest in the **drafting or revision of European legislation** - especially within the context of the New Legislative Framework for products - and in the development of public policies that may make reference to standards. ANEC also represents the collective consumer interest in the use of standards, and in matters of conformity assessment, accreditation and market surveillance.



## THE ANEC MISSION

“We raise standards for European consumers through the work of our members, experts and Secretariat, in order to achieve optimal levels of consumer protection, welfare and sustainability”.



## THE ANEC VISION 2030

Our Vision comprises five objectives to be achieved, principally through legislation and standards:

- 1 a Europe where consumers can make **choices which are sustainable**, both for their welfare and the environment;
- 2 a Europe where the safety, **security and well-being** of consumers is ensured in both traditional and digital environments;
- 3 a Europe where use of products and services **does not discriminate** among consumers;
- 4 a Europe where its **values and principles** are upheld in a globalised world;
- 5 a Europe where the engagement of consumers at national and European level is **welcomed and supported**, politically and financially.

**The Members** of the ANEC General Assembly, the Steering Committee and the Chairs of the ANEC Working Groups: <https://tinyurl.com/22vschkw>

The ANEC **Secretariat** team: <https://tinyurl.com/573y3jru>



*Raising standards for consumers*

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EC Register of Interest Representatives: Identification number 507800799-30