



Raising standards for consumers



POSITION PAPER

Annual Union Work Programme for European Standardisation 2018

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1. Introduction

ANEC welcomes the Annual Union Work Programme for European Standardisation (AUWP) 2018¹ as it reflects many of our proposals on the draft².

Through this Position Paper, we express our views on general aspects of consumer relevance, as well as on the actions to be implemented in 2018.

For ease of reference, we follow the order of the headings & numbering of the Commission document.

2. General Comments

2.1 Action in support of the Digital Single Market Strategy

ANEC welcomes the reference to the need to step up the effort to mainstream accessibility in standardisation as it is one of our main priorities, together with personal data protection, privacy and security.

We therefore look forward to contribute to the future work on cybersecurity and Internet of Things.

We also appreciate the increased links made between the AUWP and the ICT Rolling Plan and the ICT Standardisation priorities plan. The multiplication of uncoordinated planning documents, and fora for discussion, disadvantages the participation of under-resourced stakeholders such as consumers.

2.7 Action in support of a deeper and fairer Internal Market

Consumers expects new and innovative products such as 3D printers, robots and autonomous vehicles to be as safe as more traditional products. It is imperative that new products do not pose a threat to consumer safety. We agree on the need for new Harmonised Standards for these products.

4.3 Inclusiveness

Although acknowledging the recent and considerable efforts made by the ESOs in terms of inclusiveness, ANEC welcomes the proposal for the ESOs to maintain their efforts to enhance effective participation of the Annex III Organisations. This is vital in complementing the national delegation principle and so ensuring that European

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2017:453:FIN>

² <https://www.anec.eu/images/Publications/position-papers/ANEC-SC-2017-G-005final.pdf>

Standards are as robust as possible, and have the broadest stakeholder support as possible.

We are ready to work with CEN-CENELEC, through its Societal Stakeholders' Group, and ETSI to reflect on the needs of Annex III Organisations.

A continuing obstacle to inclusiveness, as recognised by the AUWP, is international standardisation (section 3). Against the background of globalisation, we think that the EC/EFTA, ESOs and Annex III Organisations should review the lead of ISO-IEC in the development (or revision) of European Standards that are (or were) the subject of a mandate or standardisation request. Again, we are ready to work with all concerned parties to address this and other challenges.

5. Joint Initiative on Standardisation

We see the Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS) as an opportunity to aim at better consumer protection & welfare. We have special interest in the feasibility study on the economic and societal impact of standardisation (action 1), and in ensuring stakeholder participation at the national level (action 10).

Some years ago, ANEC attempted to assess the benefits of consumer participation in standardisation to all stakeholders³ and we intend to contribute to this essential activity, together with all the other consumer relevant JIS action as well as Inter-Institutional Dialogue on standardisation.

Regarding Action 8 on improving the delivery and referencing of standards, we urge the Commission to put in place a stable solution to strengthen the independence of those experts employed to assess the compliance of requested deliverables with Commission requests ("New Approach Consultants"). We note with satisfaction the recently-issued call for a service contract to manage the consultant and provide technical assistance for Commission-requested standardisation.⁴

ENDS.

³ <https://www.anec.eu/images/ANEC-RT-2014-SC-006.pdf>

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=9234&lang=en

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 34 countries.

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



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