

ANEC comments on draft report on dual quality of products in the single market (2018/2008(INI))

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, European Parliament

Rapporteur: Olga Sehnalová

ANEC welcomes the draft report on dual quality of products in the Single Market.

In relation to the creation of European common/harmonised testing methodologies for non-food products by the Joint Research Centre, we suggest to explicitly state that the ISO/IEC Guide 46 - Comparative testing of consumer products and related services – General principles, should be the basis for these methodologies.

We also think that it is important to maintain a balance between ensuring the same level of quality consumer legitimately expect and avoid products unification and lower consumer choice. It is therefore essential to define what can be classified as a dual quality product, how to assess and evaluate each case, (i.e. how to best assess that "brand name, packaging design and marketing look at the first glance are the same"). The European Commission should be tasked to elaborate such definition.

This issue is showing the key role that consumer organisations are playing not only in protecting consumers but also in ensuring a fair functioning of the Single Market. European and national, especially in the Member States where dual quality goods are identified, public funding must be increased to support consumers organisations in their product testing and comparison activities.

ENDS.

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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