



Press Release:

Standards must continue as tools to address both economic and societal needs

World Standards Day 2013

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Today, 14 October 2013, World Standards Day is dedicated to the positive change brought by international standardisation. For consumers, standards are important as, when they are properly developed and applied, they can make our lives easier, the products we buy safer, more interoperable and accessible to people of all ages and abilities. ANEC wants to see the success of international standardisation continue.

But responses to the increasing complexities of an ever more globalised market - such as the Trans-Atlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) - could place the societal benefits of international standardisation at risk.

ANEC Secretary-General, Stephen Russell, remarked: "Further reductions in technical barriers to trade ought to benefit consumers and businesses alike. But consumers will gain only if the consequent international agreements harmonise on the highest levels of consumer protection and welfare practicable. If regional solutions to legislation and standards are to disappear, then the international communities must agree to build on the benchmarks existing today. We cannot accept a dash to the bottom".

END

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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