

ANEC fact-sheet on uses of nanomaterials in the European market

What is the issue?

More and more consumer products, which claim to contain nanomaterials, are available on the EU market¹. More transparency regarding the uses and applications of nanomaterials is needed².

What do we want?

Mandatory Reporting Scheme: We urge for an extensive mandatory reporting scheme of all nanomaterials used in all products available on the market to be set up and for all economic operators (producers, importers, and retailers of own branded products) marketing products containing nanomaterials in the EU to be required to register

Inventory: We call for a publicly available inventory of products containing nanomaterials with which consumers come in direct, close or regular contact, and products which lead to discharges into the environment, to be set up

Why do we ask for it?

Such an inventory would not only be in line with the public's right to know what they are being exposed to but would also ensure a proper evaluation of exposure of humans and the environment to nanomaterials. Compulsory information to the public about the presence of nanomaterials in products is a way to regulate false claims and avoid unfair commercial practices

Meeting our call would also help the European Commission to meaningfully meet the safety and traceability expectations of the European Parliament of 2009 and the Council of 2010

ANEC in Brief

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 represents consumer organisations from 31 countries. ANEC is funded by the European Union and EFTA, with national consumer organisations contributing in kind. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels. www.anec.eu

¹ ANEC/BEUC inventories of October 2009 and October 2010 presented to the Health and Consumers Commissioner Dalli at a high-level workshop organised by the Commissioner on Friday 22 October 2010, to which ANEC and BEUC were invited to speak. <http://www.anec.eu/anec.asp?rd=2637&ref=01-01.02-01&lang=en&ID=249>

² Small is beautiful but is it safe? ANEC/BEUC joint position paper on Nanotechnology - June 2009 (ANEC-PT-2009-Nano-002final).