



Raising standards for consumers

The role of standards in meeting consumer needs and expectations

3rd HSbooster Training Session | 23 June 2023, 10:00-11:30 CEST

Chiara Giovannini
ANEC Senior Programme Manager
Deputy-Director General
Chiara.giovannini@anec.eu



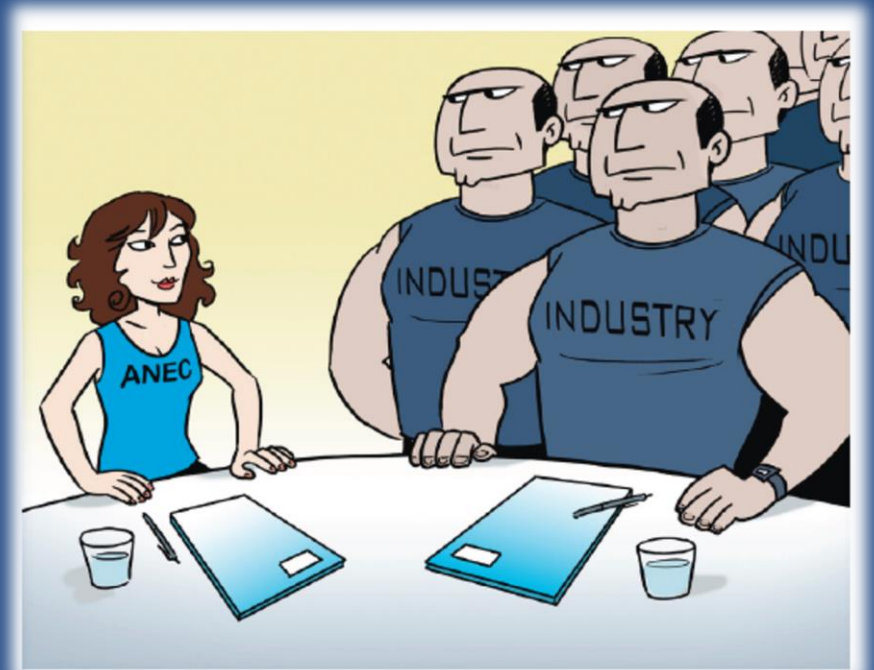
ANEC...



has provided the collective European voice since 1995:

'The European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation'

(or 'The European consumer voice in standardisation')



THE EU STANDARDISATION REGULATION



- **Standardisation Regulation (EU) 1025/2012** was implemented on 1 January 2013. See <http://goo.gl/c2JpDx>. Consolidates all previous legislative and financial instruments related to the European Standardisation System (ESS).
- Sets out a new legal basis for financing the representation of weaker stakeholders and outlines political expectations.
- Annex III of the Regulation sets out categories of 'under-represented' stakeholders whom the European Commission may support through financing a representative European association. These '**Annex III Organisations**' are presently:
 - ✓ **Consumers (ANEC)**
 - ✓ **Environmental interests (ECOS)**
 - ✓ **Social (i.e. employee) interests (ETUC)**
 - ✓ **Small and medium-sized enterprises (SBS)**

- ANEC is an independent, private and not-for-profit association (AISBL).
- Membership mirrors CEN-CENELEC (34 countries) with national consumer organisations in each country nominating a national representative to the ANEC General Assembly (29 nominations out of 34).
- Supported by funding from the EU (95%) and EFTA (5%) through annual grants made under Framework Partnership Agreements to 2024.
- ANEC participates in almost 200 technical bodies of CEN, CENELEC & ETSI, and in over 25 technical bodies of ISO & IEC and ISO COPOLCO
- Seven areas of priority agreed by the ANEC/GA:

Accessibility / Child Safety / Domestic Appliances / Digital Society (including Innovation) / Services / Sustainability / Traffic & Mobility

ANEC STRUCTURE

General Assembly (ANEC/GA)
(one individual from each of 34 countries)

Steering Committee (ANEC/SC)
(up to 10 members from GA)
Political lead

Secretariat
(11 persons plus
3 shared staff with
BEUC)

Working Groups (ANEC/WGs)
(7 WGs comprising experts drawn from member countries)
Accessibility, Child Safety, Digital Society, Domestic Appliances, Services,
Sustainability, Traffic & Mobility
Technical lead

THE ANEC WORKING GROUPS

- Each priority area is responsibility of a Working Group (WG) reporting to the General Assembly
- The WG members are:
 - ✓ **Consumer professionals** employed by a national consumer organisation or a national standards body
 - ✓ **Volunteers** endorsed by a national consumer organisation
 - ✓ **Experts** who are sympathetic to consumer positions and have clear links to the consumer movement (eg: academia, doctors)
 - ✓ **Representatives** of national, European or international organisations whose work is relevant to the ANEC activities
- Define consumer requirements in the sector
- Provide technical expertise and advice in the sector
- In 2022, ANEC submitted 464 sets of written comments on draft standards

KEY PARTNERS IN THE CONSUMER FIELD



ANEC, BEUC, CI & ICRT signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** in 2016, in order to set a framework for dialogue among the four organisations, noting the common challenges faced by the consumer movement.



The mainstream European consumers' organisation



Consumers International



International Consumer Research & Testing Ltd

OTHER KEY PARTNERS



ECOS and ETUC are **societal** peers of ANEC among the Annex III Organisations. SBS is the Annex III Organisations representing small and medium-sized enterprises.

Since 2017, ANEC, ECOS and ETUC have been allowed to submit a formal **"Opinion"** in CEN-CENELEC on draft ENs at Enquiry or Formal Vote. While not a vote, we find it a valuable expression of our views.



Environmental Coalition on Standardisation (ECOS)



European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

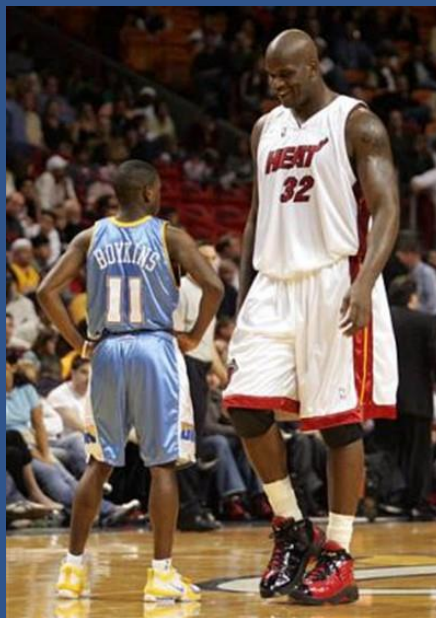


Small Business Standards (SBS)

SOME MORE FACTS & FIGURES



A network of 65 experts appointed by ANEC to CEN-CENELEC committees



125.000+ experts from business



- The European Commission grants to the Annex III Organisations total around **4M€** each year.
- BUT this funding underpins public confidence in a European Standardisation System worth between **10B€** and **100B€**.

SOCIETAL CHALLENGES IN THE 21st CENTURY



- **Technological change:** New digital technologies are changing the way we consume products and services (cybersecurity, AI, blockchain, etc).
- **Sustainable value creation and consumption** (energy and product disposal and waste)
- **Demographics & urbanization:** More and more, human society/consumers is based in cities. And it is getting older.
- **A multipolar world:** international trade and the role of international standards in protecting consumers.

EN 301 549 “Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services”



Amendment of Radio Equipment Directive (Directive 2014/53/EU) for common chargers

- After a decade of pushing by consumer groups and EP, the EC presented a proposal on the common charger in September 2021. EP and Council agreed on it in June 2022.
- Mandatory common standard for cables and devices (IEC 62680-1-3:2021) as of Autumn 2024.
- USB-C will be the standard port for all smartphones, tablets, cameras, headphones, portable speakers and handheld videogame consoles.
- Charging speed harmonised for devices that support fast charging
- Phones and devices will no longer be automatically sold with cables and this will reduce electronic waste. Consumers would need to buy the charging set separately or use a charging device they already have.

Child-resistant lighters (EN 13869)



ANEC SUCCESS STORY



Safe sound limits for Personal Music Players (PMPs) (EN 60065:2002/A12:2011 & EN 60950-1:2006/A12:2011)



ANEC SUCCESS STORY



Inclusion of “vulnerable consumers” in the EN 60335-2 standards for domestic electrical appliances





Raising standards for consumers



Thank you !

www.anec.eu



ANEC is supported financially
by the European Union & EFTA



ANEC.standards



@anectweet

© Copyright ANEC
2023