EUROPEAN COMMISSION

NEWS

Product safety – Presentation of the annual report on Rapex, the rapid alert system for non-food dangerous products: extracts from the press conference by John DALLI, Member of the EC in charge of Health and Consumer Policy

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SUMMARY

EU consumers want to be sure that the products – whether produced in the EU or imported from third-countries - are safe. The good news is that thanks to the increasing effectiveness of the EU's rapid alert system for non-food dangerous products ("RAPEX") dangerous products are detected earlier and more effectively and are more promptly removed from the EU market. This process involves a chain of actions including upstream efforts to design out risks at source, better risk assessment and close co-operation between EU authorities, notably customs, to identify risks at the points of entry.

On 08 May, Commissioner John Dalli presented the key findings of the 2011 annual report published on that day concerning Rapex, the EU-wide rapid alert system for dangerous products. The findings of the report will include the trends in the number of products notified thanks to the system, the top product categories, the most active member states notifying unsafe products, and the countries of origin.

Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.

SHOTLIST

00:00:00	Title
00:00:05	SOUNDBITE (in English) by John Dalli, Member of the EC in charge of Health and Consumer Policy: Evidence shows that controls are becoming more targeted and time is not lost on rending checks. Partnerships continue to deliver results, cooperation with customs authorities is improving thanks to jointly develop guidelines and this is leading to earlier detection. Finally, work with international partners is giving results, particularly in China. All this is helping to achieve a single market of safe products but we must not rest in our laurels, there is still work to be done. Although consumers in the European Union benefits from the highest products requirements on the world, non complaint and safe consumers gods still reach us and are there.
00:00:56	SOUNDBITE (in English) by John Dalli: At the point of entry, we are working with customs to identify risks and prevent unsafe products from entering Europe at all. Here, we have been making a particular effort and customs are increasingly active. We are also looking at

	particular risks, for example, there is increasing attention to chemical risk, and lastly I must highlight international partnerships which are a key into making products safety a reality. Efforts in China to impose strengthen safety norms across the entire production chain, are very fruitful. Indeed, the share of dangerous gods of Chinese origin found during EU controls has receded in the last two years.
00:01:47	SOUNDBITE (in English) by John Dalli: I wish to take this opportunity to call all member states to remain committed too, so that we can tackle the challenges of the global supply chain and to address any new product safety issues as they emerge.
00:02:00	END

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