



Brussels,

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSUMER SAFETY NETWORK

BRUSSELS – 31 JANUARY 2008

Introduction

The meeting was chaired by Mr Stefano Soro, Head of unit 'Product and Service Safety'.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted without changes. The adopted agenda is attached as Annex 1.

The attendance list is attached as Annex 2.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the previous meetings

The draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Consumer Safety Working Party were adopted without changes.

The draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Product Safety Network were adopted with an addition of a paragraph regarding the SusySafe I final report and the use of the data in the database, as requested by DK, SE and ANEC.

The adopted minutes are attached as Annex 3.

Joint Actions & Exchange of Officials

3. Update on ongoing joint actions (e.g. lighters, playground equipment, etc.)

The Commission invited the Member States to briefly present progress on the five applications awarded for joint market surveillance action. The Commission encouraged Member State to enhance communication around these joint actions.

4. Exchange of officials/Joint actions; introducing the 2008 call for application

The Commission informed that 16 applications for the exchange of officials were awarded and thanked the Member States for their active participation.

The Commission presented the 2008 procedures, indicating that for Joint actions the draft proposal (4/5 pages) must be sent before 14 March 2008 and that the definite complete application form must be sent before 13 May 2008. For the exchange of officials, the Commission indicated that the call for proposals should be launched at the beginning of February 2008 and that the draft proposal must be sent before 14 March 2008 for actions taken before the end of March 2008.

The Commission also mentioned that the allocated budget should be equivalent to that for 2007 (+/- 1 million Euros).

FR mentioned envisaging a proposal for joint market surveillance actions on cribs.

Fire safety related issues

5. Fire safety in hotels

The Commission illustrated the current state of play regarding fire safety in hotels. Although no significant progress has been achieved on a technical level, important developments on a political level did take place.

The European Parliament posed a question on the need to collect EU statistics and promote a larger use of sprinklers in hotels. During the Plenary Session of the European Parliament of 10 December 2007, Commissioner Kuneva stressed the importance of fire safety and drew attention to the fact that the cost of installation and maintenance of sprinklers is not always compatible with lower-budget, small "family-type" hotels. The Commission briefly mentioned the topics to be discussed during a meeting between hotel industry representatives and Commissioner Kuneva scheduled for 8 February 2008. The Commission reported on the follow-up to the last Consumer Safety Working Party meeting of 11 November 2007 (The only feedback received was by SE, EL and ANEC).

6. Fire safety – general

The Commission thanked the MS for their replies following the debate on fire safety at the GPSD Committee in November 2007 and presented two basic fire safety standards for the assessment of the smoulder-ignition of upholstered furniture and mattresses.

The replies (12) received so far, show a general positive opinion for referencing EN 1021-part 1 and EN 597-part 1 on the Official Journal, since they are robust and widely used standards. The replies received also show that Parts 2 of both standards are more problematic, mainly due to concerns about the need of flame-retardants. Two possible courses of action have been identified: either to (1) publish EN 1021 and EN 597 (parts 1) as such and give mandate for testing methods for related products, or to (2) mandate revision of EN 1021-part 1 and if necessary EN 597-part 1 to facilitate use by the authorities.

Member States were invited to submit their views and replies.

ANEC underlined the need for a comprehensive strategy covering RIP cigarettes, upholstered furniture etc. In response to CZ question about the influence of flame retardants, the Commission informed that a list of substances needs to be submitted to the scientific committee.

7. Update on work with CEN on a standard on fire safety requirements for cigarettes

The Commission provided an update since the favourable vote of MS to the GPSD Committee in November 2007. The scrutiny period of the European Parliament ends on 21 February 2008. The Commission expects to adopt the decision in March/April. The Commission (DG SANCO in coordination with DG ENTR) will draft a mandate to CEN.

The draft is going to be finalised and will be sent to Member States to seek their comments.

Miscellaneous

8. Update on the revision of the new risk assessment guidelines

The Commission made reference to the workshop on the new draft Risk Assessment Guidelines that was held in December 2007 and informed that after all comments received were incorporated; the Commission would send a revised draft to the Member States for their final comments.

9. Danish request to discuss window hasps

DK presented a joint project led by DK on childproof non-integrated locking devices for windows and balcony doors. The purpose of the project is to evaluate different test methods and produce a report. Member States were invited to evaluate the report before the end of April. The results of the project are going to be presented at one of the forthcoming meetings.

SE was in favour of the project. ANEC expressed support for the recommendation for drafting a mandate for the standard and for the organisation of a workshop.

10. Danish request to obtain information about lighter gas

DK provided an update on the lighter gas project. FI, NO and UK have submitted their comments so far. Other Member States were invited to express their views on the subject.
