



## “Who-is-who” in PROSAFE and EMARS

### *Belgium*



#### **Introduction**

Thanks to its central location, Belgium serves as a spring board to the European Union (EU). Its neighbours are France, Luxembourg, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Brussels is the capital of Europe, the site of the headquarters of the European Commission, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. Other major international organizations, such as NATO, are also located in Brussels. As a result, Brussels is the number two city in the world (after Washington) in terms of its number of accredited journalists, and fourth in terms of the number of international meetings and seminars held there.

Some 65% of the EU's economic activity is located in an area 1,500 km long and 200 km wide running from Liverpool (UK) to Genoa (Italy). Belgium is located right in the centre of this area and therefore deserves to be called the hub of Europe. Our country's role as a transit zone is due chiefly to the fact that 20% of Europe road traffic is performed by Belgian carriers. In addition, Antwerp is Europe's second largest port (after Rotterdam) and one of the 10 largest in the world.

Belgium occupies a surface area of 30,500 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 10.2 million, meaning a population density of 335 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. Belgium is the second most densely populated EU country after the Netherlands. Belgium accounts for 1% of the EU's total surface area and 2.7% of its population, yet its economic weight within the EU belies these figures. In 2000, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) was EUR 244 billion, or 2.9% of the EU's total GDP. Productivity, and therefore material prosperity, is higher in Belgium than in the rest of Europe. In 2000, per capita income was EUR 62,560, 20% above the EU average



### Product Safety Legislation

The Law of 9 February 1994 relating to the safety of products and services (“Wet van 9 februari 1994 betreffende de veiligheid van producten en diensten”(Dutch language) - "Loi du 9 février 1994 relative à la sécurité des produits et des services" (French language)) is the transposition of the General Product Safety Directive.

It is the legal basis for the implementation of many of the European directives covering consumer product safety.

Implementation of several European Directives covering consumer product safety:

General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC)	Wet betreffende de veiligheid van producten en diensten (9/2/1994)	Loi relative à la sécurité des produits et des services (9/2/1994)
Low Voltage Directive (73/23/EEC)	Koninklijk besluit tot vaststelling van de veiligheidswaarborgen welke bepaalde elektrische machines, apparaten en leidingen moeten bieden.(23/3/1977)	l'arrêté royal déterminant les garanties de sécurité que doivent présenter certaines machines, appareils et canalisations électriques. (23/3/1977)
Toy Directive (88/378/EEC)	Koninklijk besluit betreffende de veiligheid van speelgoed. (4/3/2002)	Arrêté royal relatif à la sécurité des jouets (4/3/2002);
Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC)	Koninklijk besluit betreffende de elektromagnetische compatibiliteit.(18/5/1994 - under revision)	Arrêté royal relatif à la compatibilité électromagnétique.(18/5/1994 - under revision)
Personal Protective Equipment Directive (89/686/EEC)	Koninklijk besluit betreffende het op de markt brengen van persoonlijke beschermingsmiddelen (31/12/1992)	Arrêté royale concernant la mise sur le marché des équipements de protection individuelle (31/12/1992)

Machine Directive (98/37/EC)	Koninklijk besluit betreffende het op de markt brengen van machines (5/5/1995)	Arrêté royale concernant la mise sur le marché des machines (5/5/1995)
Cableway installations designed to carry persons (2000/9/EC)	Koninklijk besluit betreffende kabelbaaninstallaties voor personenvervoer. (23/1/2003)	l'arrêté royal relatif aux installations à câbles transportant des personnes. (23/1/2003)

The text of the above mentioned legislation can be retrieved and downloaded using the search facilities on the website:

[http://www.juridat.be/cgi\\_loi/wetgeving.pl](http://www.juridat.be/cgi_loi/wetgeving.pl) (Dutch)

[http://www.juridat.be/cgi\\_loi/legislation.pl](http://www.juridat.be/cgi_loi/legislation.pl) (French)

[http://www.just.fgov.be/index\\_de.htm](http://www.just.fgov.be/index_de.htm) (German)

### **Market surveillance Practice**

The FPS (Ministry) Economy, SMEs, Self-Employed and Energy is the market surveillance authority for consumer products under the following European Directives:

- General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC)
- Low Voltage Directive (73/23/EEC)
- Toy Directive (88/378/EEC)
- Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (89/336/EEC)
- Personal Protective Equipment Directive (89/686/EEC)
- Gasappliances Directive (90/396/EEC)
- Machine Directive (98/37/EC)
- Cableway installations Directive (2000/9/EC)

Further information is available on the website <http://economie.fgov.be>.

### **PROSAFE Representative(s) and Main Contact(s)**

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