

Newsletter

Issue 9 – Summer 2009

EMARS II Surges Ahead

The main subject of this edition of the newsletter will be the progress made in the eight tasks of the second EMARS project. EMARS II has been launched on March 17, 2009 in Vienna in order to practically implement the positive results achieved in the first EMARS project and to develop additional best practice in other relevant areas of market surveillance.

We will also present some results from the several ongoing joint actions PROSAFE is implementing. We are delighted to announce that PROSAFE has submitted five new proposals, which are being evaluated by the Commission's Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC). In each joint action proposal, at least eleven European countries have expressed their interest to participate. In total, twenty-three different European countries wish to participate in one or more joint actions.

Lastly, we will also inform about recent and upcoming events related to PROSAFE and other important organizations organisations dealing with international non-food product safety.

PROSAFE in Transition

The governance of PROSAFE itself is undergoing a period of change. A new Charter is in the works and a new Board will oversee not only PROSAFE but also the legal body Stichting PROSAFE, which serves as the contracting party with the European Commission. Dirk Meijer has also assumed the mantle of Chief Executive of PROSAFE on secondment from the Dutch Food and

Consumer Product Safety Authority. These modifications to the governance structure will greatly help PROSAFE rise to the challenges of EMARS II and the ever expanding programme of joint Actions being undertaken by PROSAFE. PROSAFE met in Bern in May and considerable progress was made with the development of the new governance structure.



Group picture at the PROSAFE Spring Meeting in Berne/ Switzerland

Contents

Progress in Principle Deliverables of EMARS II	1
Results From Ongoing Joint Actions	6
Other Market Surveillance News	9
Calendar	10

Contact Details

EMARS Secretariat
Rue Joseph II 12-16
Tel.: +32-2-286 17 41
Fax: +32-2-286 17 50
E-mail: info@emars.eu



Supported by the European Commission

Progress in Main Tasks of EMARS II

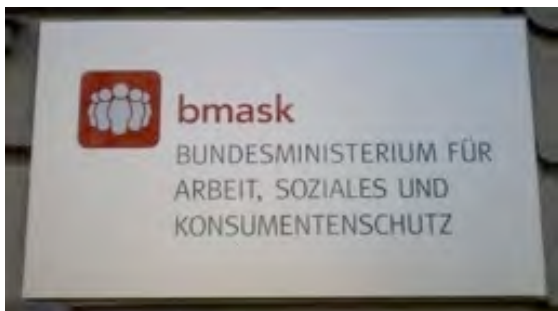
EMARS II Launch Event

The formal Launch Event was held in Vienna on March the 17th. Forty-four individuals including significant stakeholder participation attended the event.



Group photo at the EMARS II Launch Event in Vienna

All the Tasks were presented and there were also presentations and discussion around four important horizontal issues that run throughout the project. These are: cooperation with customs, safety of services, cooperation with China and coordination with other international initiatives. Stakeholders also participated in a panel discussion on the way forward. Copies of all the presentations are available from the EMARS web-site emars.eu. Our thanks go to our Austrian colleagues for their excellent hospitality.



Task A - Best Practice

One of the main scopes of this Task is to provide practical guidance on how to apply the PROSAFE book "Best Practice Techniques in Market Surveillance" to individual directives or sectors. Therefore, a short, pocket book version (The Little Book) consisting of chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9 on reactive market surveillance

and the stages in a market surveillance project circle will be drafted by the end of August 2009. Handbooks related to the different directives should satisfy the needs of the ADCOs and other market surveillance parties. The participants in Task A are currently collecting available documents and tools that are already in use in different product areas, such as the LVD, Toys and PPE in order to draw up simple checklists for the various directives.

Furthermore, DG Enterprise and different Chairmen from the various ADCOs will be invited to put forward ideas for consideration in the creation of future handbooks or checklists.

As far as the GPSD is concerned, a generic handbook containing checkpoints on different products might complicate this issue. Therefore, any generic GPSD handbook should be used more as a guideline, supplemented by handbooks on specific products; i.e; to develop a handbook that explains the theory applied to the lighters project, another developed for the Toys project, etc.

Lastly, we have contacted DG TaxUD in order to establish a more cohesive approach in our cooperation with customs. Our focus remains the same: to identify the needs of specific procedures; develop checklists or handbooks for customs officers. Possibly a meeting with DG TaxUD will be arranged in the early autumn of 2009.

Task B Management and Planning of Future Joint Actions and Coordinated Market Surveillance Activities

Task B is responsible for two groups of tasks: firstly, the practical identification of joint actions and coordinated activities, and secondly, to describe and establish best practice in the carrying out of an individual joint action. This includes the drafting of a generic joint action model and describes the different procedures and policies undertaken. The Task has sought out a '*travelling*' metaphor, which it uses to aptly describe its activity. In the act of travelling, one of the key aims is to arrive at a *destination* – a key point. When embarking on market surveillance, the destination is the objective (e.g. safer products or better knowledge). In order to journey to your destination, you require a *vehicle* - a tool. In market surveillance, these are the instruments used to support the activities (i.e. inspections or information campaigns). Travelling requires

a *roadmap*. Market surveillance also requires *maps* which can be compared to guidelines, procedures, the EMARS Book and a model joint action. Travelling is regulated by *traffic rules* - market surveillance and joint actions by management procedures and policies, Commission rules, budgetary rules, etc. At present, the task group works to establish an overview of PROSAFE procedures. Work has also begun on a guideline for carrying out joint actions. In a highly productive brainstorming workshop, a great many ideas for contents of such a guideline were shared. Finally, the task group has established a database utilising market surveillance programmes that were collected from PROSAFE members in 2006, 2007 and 2008. A first "mock-up" is already in place and available for download on WebEx. The aim is to align this database with the requirements in the "New Legislative Framework", assisting Member States with fulfilling their obligations by accessing the database for their reporting. Regarding this issue, the task group has contacted DG Enterprise at the Commission and the idea has been introduced at the June SOGS meeting.

Task C Risk Assessment

During the EMARS I project, a Rapid Advice Forum (RAF) has been created. Market surveillance officers and officials from the European Commission can consult this RAF posing questions on specific products or more general issues. Experts participating in the RAF reply on an individual basis and offer their advice on a particular issue. The turnaround for response is normally a few days. The person asking for advice can then make his or her own decision using the advice of several professional colleagues. So far, the focus of the RAF has been on product types and the application of European Directives. In planning the EMARS II project, it was decided to develop the RAF further. A number of experts in risk assessment are now included on the RAF mailing list. Whenever questions are received where the risk of a product is being considered, RAF participants will be contacted. As usual, they will give individual advice based on their own experience. Although the principle of individual advice remains, some questions may also provoke discussion in Task C, especially if the case involves general principles of risk assessment. This may result in updates of the EMARS book and/or the risk assessment training materials.

People wishing to join the Risk Assessment group are advised to contact Torben Rahbek or Dirk van Aken.

Any requests relating directly to obtaining advice should be addressed to the EMARS secretariat info@emars.eu

Each request must be written in English, and if possible be supported by any supplementary information, which should either be in, or summarised in English. The secretariat will distribute the request to the RAF after a preliminary check for completeness.

The RAF aims to meet its turnaround targets complying with deadlines based on the urgency of the request:

Normal: after 10 working days;

Urgent: after 5 working days;

Very urgent: after 48 hours.

Furthermore, the task group has started developing two databases on the WebEx site. One database will contain 'typical' risk assessment cases. An easily accessible collection of cases hopes to encourage new cases and should demonstrate, for example, how scenarios for protective equipment could be formulated. The other database will give access to probability factors that have been used in previous cases. It will contain not only the factors, but also the context in which they were applied and information on their quality (e.g. based on research or merely expert opinion). This database will serve as an important reference to achieve consistency. Another important issue concerns the risk of services. Some Member States have explicitly included service safety in their implementation of the GPSD. The task group has started listing services that are more or less linked to products, and will collect national guidelines on service safety. Firstly, we plan to analyse whether the risks are predominantly linked to either products, operators or to users. The preliminary list includes: fitness centres; rafting; sunbeds; hiring of Do-it-Yourself equipment, carting, playgrounds, water skiing, jet skiing on water, banana boat race, renting houses with boats; diving; mountaineering; down hill skiing on mountains; bungee jumping; spectators at car races, football matches, (outdoor) concerts.

In Task C of the EMARS II project, much of the emphasis lies on disseminating knowledge and improving competences for risk assessment within market surveillance. After two meetings, the group has produced a list of training needs

in risk assessment. We plan to develop an enquiry, obtaining input on this list from colleagues throughout Europe. This will be used to form a first draft training programme, which will then be available for discussion at the first Annual Forum on risk assessment, in the autumn of 2009.

Task D Market Surveillance Guidance Material for External Stakeholders

Market surveillance covers many different products and the experience of the stakeholders needs to be taken into account in the setting up of a good framework for market surveillance activities. Market Surveillance authorities are interested in establishing co-operation with the stakeholders concerned, including sector professional organisations and consumer organisations in order to take advantage of available market intelligence when establishing, implementing and updating market surveillance programmes. The majority of businesses operate in a responsible manner and desire to comply with the appropriate legislation. In order to help economic operators fulfil their obligations, guidance material has been developed in the last years. The main chunk of this material is the Corrective Action Guide that was issued in 2004. The development of regulatory requirements in Europe (see the recent publication of the New Legislative Framework) and some initiatives that have been set up in the frame of the EMARS-PROSAFE project (e.g. the publication of the book on Best Practices in market surveillance) require that such guidance is subject to a revision process to keep it up to date. Other guidance material may also be useful to strengthen cooperation between market surveillance organisations and stakeholders and needs to be developed. The main targets of Task D in the course of this year will be: establishing contacts with the interested stakeholders (Orgalime, BusinessEurope, Eurocommerce, Normapme, ANEC, BEUC and others), ADCOs, ICSMS, customs and other groups; identifying stakeholder participation in working groups for this activity; launching a survey on stakeholder needs for guidance materials; evaluating and planning follow-up activities and a first workshop to review progress and to examine specific themes, which shall be open to stakeholders.

Task E Training

With this Task, PROSAFE will try to instil a more consistent approach to market

surveillance through the promotion of best practice and a training programme for market surveillance officials in the field of consumer product safety. PROSAFE's Training Strategy shall ensure further efficiency and effectiveness in government activities within various Member States.

One of the more important areas within this Task is the development of a pilot web-based learning tool. It is expected that this paperless approach will ultimately ensure the least possible cost at national level to keep all market surveillance officers fully trained and up-to-date with the latest news and features. The year 2009 will be utilised to identify the initial areas that need to be focused upon. It is expected that such a service will be contracted out during 2009 in order to effectively implement the first pilot project during 2010/2011.

Another important point in this task group regards the exchange of officials. The European Commission is encouraging the exchange of market surveillance officials in the field of consumer product safety. Within Task E, PROSAFE will focus on developing a more structured and modular approach to the organisation of exchanges and will further develop the match-making process by linking officers or organisations possessing valuable and beneficial experience in a specific field to those which may lack training in that particular field. Indeed, a lot of progress has already been made and PROSAFE is assisting a substantial number of market surveillance authorities in contacting each other for such exchanges.

Task F Continuous Improvement of National Market Surveillance Programs

Another Task with ambitious deliverables is Task F, in view of the fact that it proposes to develop for the first time ever in this particular subject area, a pilot scheme for a peer review system between market surveillance authorities. PROSAFE is calling this initiative, PRSI, which stands for 'Peer Review Scheme Initiative'.

A lot of preparation has already been done during these early months. Currently PROSAFE, through its task members, is finalising its first draft manual for the PRSI whereby the criteria and methodology for such a peer review have been further elaborated. A conscious effort has been taken to avoid

reinventing the wheel and experiences gathered from market surveillance activities in the food sector, as well as that from the OECD, which has proved to be very useful.

Another deliverable within Task F is to develop a better link and identify a balanced scoreboard on market surveillance issues with the existing Consumer Markets Scoreboard developed by the Commission. This is envisaged to create better transparency and accountability on market surveillance activities throughout the Single Market. Ultimately, however it is developed, PROSAFE is ensuring that it works through a system of consensus, touching base where possible not only with all its members during PROSAFE meetings, but also by maintaining a good link with Customs and external stakeholders too.

Task G Standards

Market Surveillance Officials deal with standards on an almost daily basis. They undoubtedly have some good insight and experience to bring to the standards development process. New and recently revised standards can also serve as the basis for market surveillance actions to ensure that the marketplace responds to changes in standards. The start up meeting of the Task was held in Brussels on the 5th of February. There was a good discussion and exchange of views based on the briefing memo prepared by the secretariat. Various issues were discussed at length. Training for market surveillance officials in reading standards and understanding how to apply the provisions of standards was highlighted.

A draft work programme has been produced on the basis of the outline contained in the briefing memo and the discussions that took place during the Task meeting. The Key Tasks being undertaken by the group include:

- Inventory of activities
- Priority-setting amongst existing and new standards projects
- Coordination meetings
- Develop relationships with appropriate external stakeholders such as ANEC
- Monitoring international standards development, horizontal European policy and application of relevant mandates
- Feedback from joint actions and national market surveillance actions into standards

- Training seminars on participating in standards development
- Support and advise European Commission

Task H Liaison with Notified Bodies

Through the requirements of the “New Legislative Framework”, particularly the Regulation 765/2008 and the higher integration between the different market surveillance activities, the European Union is moving towards a more explicit obligation for market surveillance authorities as far as the reference to expert and accredited laboratories is concerned. Good contacts and working relationships with laboratories on a regular basis will surely have a positive effect by increasing the efficiency of the market surveillance activities and reducing the occurrence of dangerous products in Europe. A basis for this cooperation should be the accreditation of laboratories which objectively demonstrates their competence and capabilities for specific sectors or activities. It may also occur that for some specific activities or tests, where no standards and no accreditation exist, market surveillance authorities need to have suitable and objective information available to help them in the choice of the appropriate laboratory. One way to continually improve the performances and the quality of the deliverables of the market surveillance activities would be to provide all market surveillance authorities with a good reference basis, as regards the expert testing laboratories that are used for supporting, the actions of the market surveillance experts. These are some of the core subjects Task H is dealing with.

Another important matter for Task H is to avoid the risk of overlap with activities already set up in the frame of European Accreditation. They refer specifically to the verification of the performance of the expert laboratories and the eventual need to foresee the evaluation of competence through the execution of specific cross testing.

The main actions Task H will perform in the current year are: establishing first contacts with interested groups such as DG ENTR, EFCA, European Accreditation and other related organisations; launching a survey on the needs of Market Surveillance authorities and on issues arising from relations between market surveillance authorities and laboratories; evaluation of the outcomes of the survey and setting up of a working plan and a

workshop reviewing progress and examining specific themes. These workshops would be open to market surveillance members, laboratories and stakeholders

Core Coordination Tasks

In addition to the detailed tasks outlined, there are also a number of core coordination tasks that will be pursued throughout the project. These include regular coordination meetings, further development of the Rapid Advice Forum and Knowledge Base developed under EMARS.

Results from Ongoing Joint Actions

Cords and Drawstrings

The joint action on cords and drawstrings approaches its one-year anniversary and the level of activity is high. During the first half of 2009, the activities include submission of the interim report to the European Commission, Member States' checking of several thousand garments, issuing of a press release with advice to consumers and professionals on cords and drawstrings in children's clothes and the establishing of cooperation with a Czech laboratory.

The interim report covers the first half of the joint action until April 2009 and was submitted at the end of May. It reports that the participating Member States have checked several thousand garments, mainly in retail stores. The Member States have come across many clothes that do not comply with the legislation and action has been taken to remove the 'dangerous clothes' from the market. Some cases raised doubts because it may be less obvious for the inspector on the ground, how the particular case is covered by the standard. The project group has established several ways to support the inspector's decision-making:

- Every meeting includes a session where the participants present items of clothing that have been difficult to assess. They are discussed and the participants try to reach a common understanding of the standard.
- The results of the discussions are captured in a document with photos of the garment and a description of the non-compliance and the applicable clause.
- The joint action has entered into a contract with a Czech laboratory with accreditation to test according to EN 14682. The laboratory was selected after a call for tender and will be consulted with test cases where Member States still have

concerns after the common assessment. The first batch of clothes has already been sent for testing.

The project group has also had a meeting involving stakeholders (businesses, consumers and the standardisation organisation CEN). The participants shared thoughts and views on the joint action. Moreover, the convener of the CEN working group that deals with the cords standard gave valuable help for the interpretation of the standard in a couple of tricky cases. Currently, eleven countries participate in the joint action within the financial scheme and two others participate in the activities without financial support from the European Commission.

Lighters

The joint action on lighters is about to enter its final phase. The joint action started in September 2007 and will finish at the end of the year. The participants are now therefore busily working on the final activities to present good results at the final workshop scheduled for 30 November 2009.

The joint action submitted its second interim report to the Commission at the end of April. The report summarises the progress made in the joint action until February 2009. The report shows that the activities with laboratory testing of lighters has picked up very well. At present, 135 lighter models have either been tested or are ready at the laboratory. The participating Member States are presently busy analysing the results.

The next major test activity to be taken up is child-panel testing. The participants decided to run a number of child-panel tests to acquire experience on this test method. This experience is valuable from several viewpoints. Firstly, the participants will get experience in assessing and evaluating test reports from child-panel tests. Secondly, it will show the participants the feasibility of the method; an issue that has been discussed for a while in CEN, in the context of the revision of the standard EN 13869.

March 11th marked the anniversary of the lighter decision and the Member States took this as an opportunity to issue a common press release on the progress with their lighter activities. The press release was translated and published on numerous authorities' websites and can be downloaded from the EMARS website.

The joint action also demonstrates good synergy with other PROSAFE activities. A workshop was organised in September 2008 where the participants developed a workflow chart for a lighter case. This work will be reported in a document for the joint action, but it will also form the basis of a guideline to be developed by EMARS II, Task A. This guideline will be an example of a product specific guideline from Task A.

The joint action continues to maintain good contacts with the stakeholders. A core group meeting was organised in March in conjunction with a project group meeting allowing the Member States to present and discuss the recent progress with industry. One of the main findings from all the activities in the Member States is that the lighter market is still not completely free from non-compliance products. Because the conformance level is not as high as it should be, PROSAFE has filed an application for a 3-year follow-up action to continue the activities and "finish the job". Some of the participants in the on-going action have decided not to continue participating, but because there are some new country participants, the total number of participants remains almost the same. The application is presently being considered.

Toys

This joint action started in September 2008. The aims of the project are diverse: firstly, it attempts to identify the present level of conformance regarding Module I (investigation of small parts and magnets in toys) and in Module II (investigation of traces of heavy metals in toys) the type of toys that are placed within the Single Market for children under 3 years. Secondly, it seeks to perform joint surveillance actions and testing in order to increase the level of safety within the Single market and thirdly, it hopes to achieve a higher level of conformance / safety of these toys by the end of the project and learn from the experience gained.

A number of project meetings have been organised. Both the members within the financial scheme as well as others from outside the financial scheme are participating in this project, bringing the total number of organisations to 20. The customs and external stakeholders are also involved as much as possible in this project. In order to ensure full coordination with all market surveillance activities performed by the respective

organisations, the Joint Action on Toys is organised in conjunction with the Toys ADCO Group.

A number of handheld XRF equipment devices have been bought by PROSAFE and market surveillance officers have been trained to use the equipment for preliminary toy checks. In June, an agreement will be signed with a European laboratory, which will be performing tests according to EN71-1 and EN71-3 on a range of samples extracted from the market by this Joint Action. The tests and analysis will be finalised by the end of this year and the final conference is envisaged to be organised back-to-back with the TOY-ADCO meeting in spring 2010.



Presentation of the XRF Equipment at the Toys Meeting in March

Sunbeds

The PROSAFE Joint Action on Sunbeds and Solarium Services, which started in September 2008, has made some remarkable progress. In May, the second project specific newsletter was published detailing the efforts taken by the participants in order to enhance the market surveillance in this particular field. At present, the analysis of inspection data is in progress and results are expected for the end of July. Only two participating Member States still need to run their measurements. A meeting with the working group 'implementation of new legislation' of the European Sunlight Association (ESA) took place. During this meeting, practical agreements were made regarding follow-ups, such as 'symposia in all EU Member States', 'handbook for tanning studios' etc. The minutes for this meeting will be available within 2 weeks. In addition, the project leader attended the ICP Congress on "risks and benefits of sunbeds" in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Other Market Surveillance News

ICPSC Conference

On September 10, 2009, consumer product safety regulators and market surveillance officials from around the world will gather with other stakeholders) at the Park Inn Hotel, Solna, Stockholm, Sweden for the first ever global regulators conference focusing on a timely and specific product safety issue: How might tracking/traceability label policies be coordinated internationally to the benefit of our consumers everywhere?

Coordination on product traceability and tracking labels could prove to be extremely useful. Labeling locations, written language, manufacturer identification, batch coding, and a long list of other tracking/traceability label elements all have international implications for products that are traded globally. To what extent should they also be tracked globally? And by what means?

Some jurisdictions will put new product traceability and tracking label requirements in place in the near future. Whether the jurisdiction where you live and work will do so or not, there is little doubt that tracking label decisions made in major markets will have an impact far beyond their territories. Interested stakeholders can play a role in the process by participating in the Stockholm conference.

As can be seen from the agenda available from the ICPSC web site, a thorough discussion of the topic is planned. The ICPSC also wants to ensure input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders. To this end, some registered attendees will have an opportunity to make a presentation to the assembled regulators. Registration for the conference and to make a presentation during the open session can be done online at the ICPSC our web-site <http://www.icpsc.org>.

Australian Recall Review and the Road to DC 2010

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is undertaking a recall review as a result of a broader review of the Australian product safety system carried out by the Australian Productivity Commission. The objective of the review is to draft recommendations to improve the handling of recalls in Australia considering a broad range of policy options and alternative approaches.

The Australian project provides an excellent opportunity to exchange information in preparation for the planned ICPSC workshop on recall effectiveness to be held in Washington in February next year.

The Australian process is designed in such a way that there is a possibility for international partners to contribute at a number of significant points during the review. The first opportunity will be during the initial research phase. Interested stakeholders are invited to complete a questionnaire online and to send relevant documentation to the review team. The questionnaire can be accessed at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229DUA8QC58>. Relevant documentation can be sent to the review team at recalls@iscpc.org. The team is interested to receive information concerning policies and procedures relating to recalls and research and information relevant to recall effectiveness. These may include for example information as to how a decision is taken to initiate a recall, how the recall is carried out including the communication channels that are used to publicize the recall, what redress is made available to the consumer, how the recall is closed and what measures there are of the effectiveness of the recall.

On the basis of the analysis of the results of the initial research phase, a second questionnaire will be drawn up that solicits much more detailed information about specific policy options that the Australians will wish to consider. The Australians have graciously agreed to share information from their review with the ICPSC. It is the ICPSC's intention then, to build on the Australian review and produce an international review paper to be presented at the workshop in Washington in February of next year.

Conference Safe Products – At the Core of the EU Single Market

The Swedish Presidency of the European Union will host a major conference on Market Surveillance and the free flow of goods in Stockholm in September. Effective agency supervision, in terms of market surveillance, is a prerequisite for ensuring that products meet existing safety requirements and for a well-functioning internal market. This need is underlined every time hazardous products are found on the market.

The need for market surveillance is increasing

with globalisation and the growth of trade. In the internal market, goods are to move freely over borders, provided that they meet basic safety requirements, etc. Market surveillance enables agencies to keep an eye on hazardous products and to obtain redress when products do not meet the requirements. Market surveillance is conducted by the responsible agencies using spot checks of goods released on the market and in retail stores. The aim is to:

- detect and intervene to prevent goods that do not meet the stipulated requirements,
- maintain respect for the regulatory framework,
- identify areas in which regulations are deficient.

The European Union has sophisticated and well-developed legislation for product safety and the free movement of goods. However, until now market surveillance has been a weak link.

For this reason, on 9 July 2008, the Council and Parliament adopted a regulation setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance (No 765/2008) that obliges the Member States to introduce market surveillance according to established rules of procedure. The Member States are to introduce the regulation by 1 January 2010.

Market surveillance is also about striking the right balance and not disturbing the flow of goods unnecessarily while protecting consumers from hazardous products. The challenge is therefore to conduct market surveillance as effectively as possible while taking account of the limited resources available. We believe that a key factor is cooperation between market surveillance agencies, both within countries and with sister agencies in other Member States. At the conference a study will be presented that provides an inventory of cooperation projects that have already been implemented and that identifies key factors in successful cooperation projects.

Representatives from the Commission will attend the conference, as will representatives of agencies, industries, trade and consumers. More information is available at the Swedish Presidency web-site <http://tinyurl.com/ljt8qz>

Commission to strengthen systems to enforce Consumer law

The European Commission has adopted a "consumer enforcement package" to strengthen the EU-wide enforcement of consumer rules. Effective enforcement of consumer law is a major priority for EU consumer policy - both in terms of ensuring that consumers feel the full benefits of their consumer rights in their daily lives, as well as establishing a level playing field for firms in a competitive single market.

Whilst much of the focus is on the Consumer Policy Network and the coordination of activities more aligned with consumers economic interests, the Communication specifically refers to the GPSD and the New Legislative Framework on an equal footing to the CPC network. EMARS is explicitly referenced in the document. Depending on how the European Parliament and the Council now react to the communication there may be some scope to further emphasize the important role that PROSAFE plays in regard to cooperation and the joint actions. This could better position PROSAFE to receive an operating grant instead of having to bid for separate funding for all of its projects.

The Commission highlights the importance of cross-border cooperation in difficult economic times and finishes by stating "Both the Commission and the national enforcement authorities need to increase efforts to meet today's complex challenges, if we are to attain the objective of achieving the highest level of consumer protection within the European Union and furnish consumers with the confidence to exploit the single market to its full potential. "

Comprehensive EU Injury Data Made Available

A new service has been launched to provide comprehensive injury data This new service is part of the PHASE (Public Health Actions for a Safer Europe) project, led by EuroSafe, and aims to provide relevant, comprehensive and up-to-date injury information in the following areas of injury prevention and safety promotion: home and leisure accidents, product related injuries, sports injuries, traffic accidents, work place accidents and violence related injuries.

Why the need for comprehensive information?
Various information systems have been created in past years in order to provide easy access to the huge amount of data that is being routinely collected by health and safety

administrations. However, data is not information and especially in the highly fragmented area of injury prevention the need for 'data clearing' – turning data into reliable information - has become more and more evident.

Comprehensive data sources

EU Injury Data Services use a wide spectrum of data sources at both the international and national levels:

- 'All Injury' data and home and leisure accident data from the EU Injury Database (IDB) and the national IDB partners – the core of the data services;
- General injury mortality and morbidity from ESTAT, WHO and other international data providers;
- Specific injury data for workplace and road traffic accidents from data sources like ESAW, CARE or IRTAD and
- Special topic data (burn centres, poison information centres).

Reporting services

Ad hoc requests for specific injury statistics can be submitted. Depending on the volume of the request and the intended use a fee may be charged. Further, there are a number of free reporting services to which you can subscribe:

- Annual report 'Injuries in the EU'
- Fact sheets about current injury topics
- Updates and news from the main EU data systems
- EU wide national injury report reviews

Who can benefit from the EU Injury Data services?

The EU Injury Data services is a valuable resource for all those working in the area of injury prevention and safety promotion and would like to use injury data and figures to underpin arguments and proposals but have difficulty accessing appropriate data or interpreting the data provided.

Queries can be submitted by completing a form at:

<http://www.eurosafe.eu.com/csi/eurosafe2006.nsf/wwwVwContent/l4compinjuryinfosystem.htm> and sending this to Robert Bauer (see address below). To subscribe to the free reporting services, please also contact Robert Bauer.

Source and more information: Robert Bauer at robert.bauer@kfv.at, <http://www.eurosafe.eu.com/injurydata>

Calendar of Forthcoming Meetings

September

7th AM Peer Review Meeting, Stockholm
7th PM Consultants Meeting, Stockholm
8th AM Task D EMARS II, Stockholm
8th all day Task G EMARS II, Stockholm
8th all day Task B EMARS II, Stockholm
8th PM Task H EMARS II, Stockholm
9th all day PROSAFE Projects Core Group/PROSAFE Board meeting, Stockholm
9th PM ICPSC Meeting and Board meeting, Stockholm
10th ICPSC Conference on Product Traceability and Tracking Labels, Stockholm
11th Conference – Safe Products at the Core of the Internal Market, Stockholm

October

12th and 13th October, PROSAFE Meeting, Brussels,
14th Core group and Board meeting TBC
19th and 20th Joint Meeting Tasks A, E and F, Brussels
26th to 28th ICPHSO Toronto

November

25th and 26th UN-ECE Risk Assessment Conference

Week of 30th November

30th Lighters Presentation of results and Final Workshop
30th Cords and Strings Presentation of results and Final Workshop
30th Sunbeds Presentation of results and Final Workshop
1st and 2nd December EMARS II Workshop incorporating the first EMARS II Annual Risk Assessment Seminar
3rd Core group and Board Meeting
4th Malta Standards Authority market surveillance seminar

December

9th Toys Joint Action