



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC  
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT



# International Collaboration on Product Safety

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OECD- Committee on Consumer Policy

EMARS Strategy Workshop

11 July 2008

# Presentation

- OECD work on consumer policy – who are we? what do we do?
- Roundtable on consumer product safety -- 23 October 2008
- Analytic work and possible development of policy instrument – 2009-2010

## OECD work on consumer policy – who are we? what do we do?

- **Mandate – key provisions**
  - In general: To examine questions relating to consumer policy and law in Member countries and within international and regional organisations and to contribute to the further development and strengthening of co-operation between Member countries in policy development and law enforcement.
  - Product safety: To examine issues of consumer policy and safety, particularly those concerning international trade or the development of a global marketplace for consumers.

## OECD work on product safety: what have we done?

- **Council Policy Recommendations and Decisions**
  - [Establishment of Data Collection Systems Related to Injuries Involving Consumer Products \(1977\)](#) – establishes guidelines for data collection.
  - [Safety of Consumer Products \(1979\)](#) – provides guidelines for improving legislation and supporting international trade.
  - [Recall Procedures for Unsafe Products Sold to the Public \(1981\)](#) – establishes consumer rights on recalls; provides guidelines for improving recall procedures.
  - [Risk Management and Cost-Benefit Analysis in the Product Safety Field \(1982\)](#) -- provides guidelines for attaining greater uniformity of approaches across borders; establishes principles for cost-benefit analysis.
  - [Safety Measures Taken in the Interest of Children \(1983\)](#) – calls for (i) improvement in reducing hazards, (ii) improved data collection, (iii) labelling, publicity and education campaigns and national and international policy reviews.
  - [Notification System on Consumer Safety Measures \(1989\)](#) – establishes formal procedures for collecting and sharing information on policies and individual measures.



## OECD work on product safety: what are we doing ... in 2008?

- **Setting the scene**
- **Roundtable on product safety – 23 October 2008 ,in Paris**
  - Goals
  - Scope
  - Participants: Groups and countries
  - Background report
  - Survey
  - Programme
  - Summary report
- **Further information: [Ewelina.Marek@oecd.org](mailto:Ewelina.Marek@oecd.org)**
- **Please come!**

# Background Report

Being prepared by Australia, France and OECD

## Domestic consumer product safety regimes

- Institutions in charge of the issue: policy enforcement
- Role of the business and civil society in consumer product safety regulation
- Enforcement tools and initiatives
- Information gathering and sharing

## International and regional perspectives on consumer product safety

- International and regional consumer product safety frameworks
- Cross-border cases
- Enforcement co-operation challenges

## Addressing cross-border product safety problems more effectively

- Developing an international information exchange system
- Role of the OECD



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# Roundtable programme

## The international product safety policy and enforcement environment: issues and challenges

- What are the magnitude and scope of the problem?
- What are recent developments and trends in domestic and cross-border consumer product safety policy and enforcement?

## Policy frameworks for addressing product safety issues

- What sorts of domestic and cross-border policy frameworks are in place for addressing consumer product safety?

## Issues in product safety enforcement

- How effective is enforcement within countries and across borders?
- What issues need to be addressed?

## Next steps

- Scope of future work for the OECD
- How can the OECD best contribute to further policy development?



## OECD work on product safety: what are we doing... in 2008?

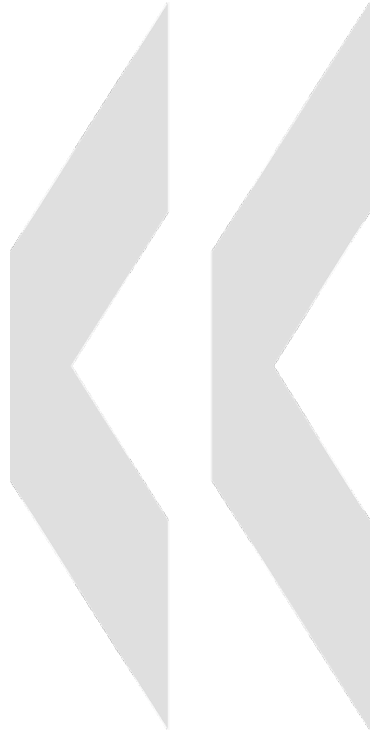
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## OECD work on product safety: what are we doing ... in 2009-2010?

- Major item in programme of work
- Why?
  - Need to address deficiencies in consumer product safety regimes and find ways to strengthen regimes.
  - Urgent need for a forum to exchange views and information among countries and non-member economies on their situations and experiences.

## OECD work on product safety: what are we doing ... in 2009-2010 ... continued?

- **What and when?**
  - Report by third quarter 2009 on:
    - Approaches that countries are using to collect and disseminate information on consumer product safety and on accidents and injury.
    - International information sharing regimes and mechanisms already in place.
    - Legal capacities that countries have to share information with foreign authorities.
  - Conference in first quarter 2010
    - Explore potential for enhancing information-sharing, taking into account the different approaches currently being used and legal constraints.
  - Possible agreement on information-sharing protocol (2010:IV)



**Thank you**  
**for your attention**  
(hope to see you in October)

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