



International Product Safety Week 2024

Bridges for Global Product Safety

Monday 14 October

10:00-11:10 Intro session for IPSW Student Mentorship Programme

For mentors and mentees only, Lord Jenkins room

Let's get to know each other in a fun way!

- **Walk & connect**, Parc du Cinquantenaire at **11:15-12:30**
Anna Jassem, Internal team walks' facilitator, European Commission
- **Mad Tea Party: rapidly build new connections**, Foyer at ground floor at **11:30-12:00**
Graziana Lonero and **Carla Carvalho**, Internal consultants on participatory processes and change management, European Commission
- **Compassion session**, Sicco Mansholt room at **12:00-12:30**
Pinuccia Contino, Deputy Director for Consumers and Head of Product Safety and Rapid Alert System Unit, European Commission

12:30-13:30 Brownbag lunch

13:30-15:00 Opening session

Keynote speeches by Didier Reynders and Anna Cavazzini

High-level panel discussion

- **Didier Reynders**, EU Commissioner for Justice

- **Anna Cavazzini**, Chair of European Parliament's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection
- **Will Creswell**, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Consumer Product Safety
- **Christel Delberghe**, Director General, Eurocommerce
- **Kim Mason**, President, International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO)
- **Agustin Reyna**, Director General, The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)

15:00-16:15 **Building Bridges: Safety and circularity**

Consumers' trust is essential in order to unlock the potential of the circular economy. In this respect, the safety of products in the circular economy plays a crucial role. This panel will discuss the cases of convergence and divergence of product safety and circularity. A range of stakeholders will explore the various aspects of this broad theme from different, yet complementary perspectives. We will also get a glimpse into the first results of the European Commission's ongoing study on product safety and circularity.

Co-moderator: Marie Gerardy, Legal and Policy Officer/Standardisation Desk Officer, Product Safety and Rapid Alert System Unit, European Commission

Speakers:

- **Catherine Chevauché**, Chair of International Standardization Organization, Technical Committee 323 on circular economy
- **Paulo Coscarelli**, Division of International Technical Cooperation, Brazil's National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology (Inmetro)
- **Amanda Dadd**, Director for Industry and Consumer Engagement, Australia Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)
- **Alejandro Cózar Cisneros**, Senior legal counsel, Decathlon

16:45-18:00 **Exploring Bridges: New products, new risks**

New consumer products incorporating digital technologies - such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT) or virtual reality (VR) – offer new technical solutions, including a variety of benefits to consumers. However, they may also pose new health and safety risks (including to mental health) or compound existing risks. This panel will also explore the ways forward to mitigate these risks, be it through regulation, voluntary initiatives by the industry or awareness-raising.

Co-moderator: Andrés Zsigmond, Team Leader on New technologies and online product safety, Product Safety and Rapid Alert System Unit, European Commission

Speakers:

- **Rafaella Nicolazzi**, Data, Privacy & Consumer Protection Lead, OpenAI's Global Affairs team in Europe
- **Nicholas McSpedden Brown**, Policy Analyst at OECD
- **Nathalie Smuha**, Assistant Professor at KU Leuven
- **Cláudio Teixeira**, Legal Officer, Digital Rights, The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)

18:45-19:30 “The Best Option”: Movie screening and discussion with the director, Serge Goriely

19:30-20:30 Cocktail

Tuesday 15 October

During all the breaks, there will be an **exhibition by the EU Product Safety Award research winners**:

- **Prof. Frederik Dijkers and Prof. Tjark Ebels**, University of Groningen, Patented invention for self-extinguishing button batteries
- **Prof. Eduard Fosch-Villaronga**, Leiden University, Innovative research on diversity in robot design, testbed, and safety standardisation
- **Prof. Jerry Spanakis and Max Fuchs**, Maastricht University, Detection of product safety issues based on consumers’ online reviews

9:00-10:30 **Crossing Bridges: Innovative ways of communicating safety**

Protecting consumers from dangerous products calls for effective communication from all the stakeholders, including regulators, businesses, civil society, academia, and more. This panel will showcase innovative examples of product safety communication and education from around the world. We will also brainstorm on new ideas for raising public awareness of product safety issues.

Keynote speech:

- **Isabelle Pérignon**, Director for Consumers, European Commission

Speakers:

- **Carole Bachmann**, Secretary General, European Portable Battery Association
- **Minyoung Huh**, Deputy Director (Head of Team), Department of Injury Information, Korea Consumer Agency
- **Dalia Malinauskienė**, Head of International and Public Relations Division, Lithuania State Consumer Rights Protection Agency
- **Anja Merenkivi**, Senior Officer, Consumer Products, Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes)
- **Rafael Regla Aguirre**, Head of International Affairs, Mexico’s Office of the Federal Prosecutor for the Consumer (PROFECO)

11:00-12:30 **Expanding Bridges: Inclusiveness in product safety**

Are consumer products available on the market safe for all consumers, regardless of their gender, age, ethnicity, religion, physical abilities or socio-economic status? How are inclusiveness considerations taken into account by regulators, standard-makers, consumer organisations and economic operators? This session will identify challenges and gaps, highlight promising initiatives and suggest possible ways forward for making product safety more inclusive.

Speakers:

- **Geoff Barrett**, Executive Director, Office of Emerging Priorities, Health Canada
- **Dr. Frauke Hoss**, Policy Officer, Machinery and Equipment Unit, European Commission
- **Tania Vandenberghe**, Senior Programme Manager, European consumer voice in standardisation (ANEC)
- **Beau Wangtrakuldee**, Founder and CEO of AmorSui

14:00-15:30 **Developing Bridges: EC-UNCTAD workshop on UNCTAD Recommendation on general product safety principles**
(hybrid)

The session will be devoted to presenting the draft UNCTAD Recommendation on general product safety principles, currently under development in the framework of the UNCTAD Working Group on Consumer Product Safety. The objective of the Recommendation is to provide a guide for countries setting up or revising their product safety frameworks. More specifically, the workshop will explore the draft Recommendation guidance on international cooperation. Plenary presentations will be followed by breakout discussions on the different possibilities to enhance and broaden the usage of existing international cooperation and information sharing tools.

Opening remarks:

- **Pinuccia Contino**, Deputy Director for Consumers and Head of Product Safety and Rapid Alert System Unit, European Commission
- **Teresa Moreira**, Head of Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- **Thezi Mabuza**, Acting Commissioner, National Consumer Commission, South Africa
- **Katia Peñaloza**, Director of the National Consumer Authority of Peru

Discussion leaders for breakout sessions:

- **Dr. Fernando Blanco Muñio**, Deputy Secretary for Consumer Defence, Argentina
- **Dr. Martyna Derszniak-Noirjean**, Director of International Cooperation Office, Office of Competition and Consumer Protection, Poland
- **Arnau Izaguerra Vila**, Legal Officer, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch Division on International Trade and Commodities, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- **Tarek Younes**, Director of the consumer protection directorate, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon
- **Dr. Wimonrat Wim Teriyapirom**, Director of International Cooperation, Office of the Consumer Protection Board, Thailand

Conclusions by Eva Sinkovic, Deputy Head of Product Safety and Rapid Alert System Unit, European Commission

16:00-17:30 **Internal Bridges: Making sure the way we work reflects our goals**

How we work is just as important as the outcomes we produce. If you want to discover more, come and join an interactive presentation on compassionate leadership and why it matters for product safety. This will be followed by a case study presentation on developing the wellbeing governance at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice & Consumers (DG JUST).

Speakers:

- **Pinuccia Contino**, Deputy Director for Consumers and Head of Product Safety and Rapid Alert System Unit, European Commission
- **Irena Moozova**, Deputy-Director General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), Chair of JUST Wellbeing Board, European Commission

18:30-22:00 Cocktail and networking dinner

Opening remarks:

- **Ana Gallego**, Director General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission

Wednesday 16 October

9:00-10:30 Consolidating Bridges: **Global Protection to make Safety a Reality (GPSR)**

Businesses, authorities and consumers, get ready for the new EU General Product Safety Regulation (GPSR) just two months prior to its application. Get to know the new rules and how they impact you, depending on your role in the supply chain. Consumers, learn about your new rights in product safety. The entire GPSR team will be there to guide you through the new rules and reply to your queries.

Speakers:

- **GPSR team** of Product Safety and Rapid Alert System Unit, European Commission
- **Christophe Roeland**, Policy Officer, Market Surveillance Unit, European Commission
- **Bernice Farrugia**, Director for Market Surveillance, Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority Rebecca.fleming@gmx.de
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11:00-12:30 Securing Bridges: Everything you need to know to place safe products on the EU and the US market (*hybrid*)

Are you an importer or online seller bringing consumer products from abroad to the EU or the US? Then join this hands-on session to learn what you need to check for to ensure that the products comply with the safety requirements in the two markets. You will also discover the tools developed by the European Commission and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to support you in this task.

Speakers:

- **Tilven M. Bernal**, Office of International Affairs, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)
- **Martijn Duinkerke**, Senior Inspector, Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA)

- **SHEN Yi**, Deputy Division Director, Division of Commodity Inspection I, Department of Commodity Inspection (GACC)
- **Eva Sinkovic**, Deputy Head of Product Safety and Rapid Alert System Unit, European Commission