

## Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting Working Group on Consumer Product Safety, November 16, 2021

The Working Group on Consumer Product Safety (WGCPS) held its fifteenth teleconference on 16 November 2021 (at 8.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Geneva time). The objective of the meeting was to discuss the developments in the work plan adopted at the fourteenth teleconference for the period 2021-2022 until the sixth session of the Intergovernmental group of experts on consumer protection law and policy (July 2022).

## Work plan 2021-2022

- <u>Modalities for the prevention of cross-border distribution of known unsafe consumer</u> <u>products</u>: the secretariat will prepare a background report based on the inputs received by the members of the WGCPS. This background report will inform a dedicated discussion at the IGE meeting of July 2022. Due to delays in the drafting, the UNCTAD secretariat aims to circulate the draft report to WGPS before the end of November to receive comments until end of January (instead of December as initially foreseen).
- 2. Joint workshop EC-UNCTAD: under the title "Building effective consumer product safety frameworks together," on 9 November 2021 hosting 147 registered participants from 54 countries. Mr. Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice and Consumers and Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary General of UNCTAD gave the welcoming remarks. Representatives from Morocco, South Africa and Viet Nam discussed how to get legal frameworks for consumer product safety in place, while representatives from Argentina, COMESA and the European Commission exchanged on the benefits that cross-border and regional cooperation can bring. The recording of the session will be circulated to registered participants and members of the WGCPS. The European Commission thanked participants for their attendance and informed that the International Product Safety Week in November 2022. Consumers International thanked the opportunity to participate as civil society advocates and volunteered to deliver a presentation in the future. Argentina congratulated EC and UNCTAD for the event.
- 3. <u>Workshop</u>: under the theme of cooperation between consumer product safety and customs authorities, it will be held online on 12 April 2022. Argentina proposed that members of the WGCPS send questions and propose some issues to address in the event in order to better prepare the workshop (contact: Ms. María Paola Rubin, <u>internacional.dndc@produccion.gob.ar</u>; <u>marubin@produccion.gob.ar</u>). The United States volunteered to intervene at the workshop. The United States proposed to circulate a draft letter for WGCPS participants to send to their peer customs authorities. The WGCPS may liaise with the World Customs Organizations to disseminate the event.
- <u>Outreach</u>: The USCPSC generously added a link in its institutional page to the page of the WGCPS, which increases the visibility of the WGCPS' work: <u>https://www.cpsc.gov/Business--</u>



Manufacturing/International/International-Regions/Intergovernmental-Organizations. The UNCTAD secretariat expressed its appreciation for this. The United States informed that the USCPS Chairperson made reference to the UNCTAD recommendation in the context of ICPHSO.

 <u>Other issues</u>: Consumers international informed that it will launch the Guidelines for online consumer product safety on 1 December in the framework of the WTO Ministerial Meeting. A formal invitation will be circulated to participants of the WGCPS.

The next meeting of the WGCPS will be held on 15 February.

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Working Group on Consumer Product Safety 15 <sup>th</sup> Meeting – List of Participants		
Paola Rubin	Direction on Consumer Protection	Argentina
Hugo Leonardo Ogasawara	National Secretariat for Consumers - SENACON	Brazil
Eddy Alcantara, Olga Matos	National Institute for the Protection of Consumer Rights - ProConsumidor	Dominican Republic
Sergey Sinyakov	Eurasian Economic Commission	
Myriam Denieul	European Commission	
Rafael Regla, Ximena Galicia	Federal Consumer Attorney - Profeco	Mexico
Frankincense Macula, Toby Vigal	Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of Philippine Standards, Consumer Policy and Advocacy Bureau	Philippines
Aleksandra Mrozowska- Sroka	Office of Competition and Consumer Protection - UOKiK	Poland
Damla Yeseren Arafal	Ministry of Trade	Turkey
Richard O'Brien Tilven Salazar	Consumer Product Safety Commission	United States
Antonino Serra	Consumers International	