



UNCTAD

Minutes of Meeting
Working Group on Consumer Product Safety, January 18th, 2019

As indicated in its concept note, the purpose of this Working Group (“WG”) is to provide a forum for member States representatives and relevant stakeholders interested in exchanging experiences about mechanisms to detect, minimize, and tackle the risks for consumers health and safety due to defective products.

The WG held its first conference call on November 6th, 2018 when the participants decided: a) to work on the definition of safety product by sharing information on existing legal definitions; especially considering the ones adopted by OECD and the European Union; b) to work on the classification of the goods that would be subject of the WG excluding food and medicine; c) to work on goods for children and vulnerable groups of consumers.

In order to share information regarding the existing legal definitions of safety products, participants were asked to send contributions.

During the second WG meeting, according to the agenda, participants explain the challenges faced by developing countries on surveillance and early detection the unsafety products. Member states presented opinions and information regarding the challenges they are observing, such as:

- High levels of informality in developing countries’ markets make difficult the surveillance.
- Many authorities with competences related to consumers’ health and safety products, sometimes overlapping, hinder the coordination with each other.
- The lack of information and data bases of accidents and injuries caused by products avoid authorities taking early actions.
- The legal framework of some countries needs to improve in order to restrict products that were rejected in other countries.
- The expansion of e-commerce and the Internet of things require the study and analysis of new risks for consumers.
- The necessity of making recalls more effective.

We encourage all participants of this group shall send their views and opinions during next weeks until the 10th March. Our next conference call will be held on the March 26th, 2019 at 4.00 pm (Geneva time).



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List of Participants

1. Antonino Serra, Consumers International
2. Cristina Rodríguez Corzo, Colombia, Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio
3. Rocio Urbina, Indecopi, Perú
4. Yvonne Stein, Sweden
5. Turkey
6. ... Eurasian Economic Commission