



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on International Trade

2010/2085(INI)

3.12.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

on the revision of the General Product Safety Directive and market surveillance
(2010/2085(INI))

Rapporteur: Małgorzata Handzlik

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Points out that globalisation, increased outsourcing and the growth in international trade mean that more products are being traded on markets across the world; considers that close cooperation between global regulators and other stakeholders in the area of consumer product safety is key for addressing the challenges posed by complex supply chains and the higher volume of trade;
2. Notes that consumer products placed on the European internal market are coming increasingly from third countries; in this regard emphasises the importance of international cooperation in the field of product safety, especially with our main trading partners; calls on the Commission to strengthen the existing structures of bilateral, trilateral (EU-US-China) and multilateral cooperation in order to improve the safety of products placed on the European market;
3. Stresses that a single EU control system for all products is important for our trading partners and producers from third countries who place their products on the EU market; is of the opinion that when preparing a proposal on the revision of the General Product Safety Directive the Commission must include the market surveillance provisions of the GPSD in the New Legislative Framework;
4. Welcomes the setting up of the RAPEX – CHINA system, which provides the Chinese authorities with information on consumer products from China banned or withdrawn from the European market; is of the opinion that the RAPEX – CHINA system should be further developed to increase the number of cases investigated and thus identify more of the manufacturers or exporters responsible; points out that the majority of products notified in the RAPEX system originate from China;
5. Calls on the Commission to consider the usefulness of setting up a system similar to RAPEX – CHINA for other trading partners, in particular those whose products have been notified in the RAPEX system;
6. Underlines the importance of product traceability and tracking labels for determining the country of origin of the product and the manufacturer responsible;
7. Recognises the increase in the number of products bought online by consumers which come from third countries and which do not comply with European standards, thus endangering the safety and health of consumers; calls on the Commission to step up and standardise customs checks on products bought on the internet and to carry out market surveillance, paying special attention to products which can cause direct harm to consumers, such as pharmaceutical and food products; urges the Commission to study possible solutions to that problem, in order to strengthen consumers' confidence in e-commerce.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	1.12.2010
Result of final vote	+: 24 -: 2 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	William (The Earl of) Dartmouth, Laima Liucija Andrikienė, David Campbell Bannerman, Harlem Désir, Christofer Fjellner, Joe Higgins, Yannick Jadot, Metin Kazak, Bernd Lange, David Martin, Vital Moreira, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Tokia Saïfi, Helmut Scholz, Peter Šťastný, Robert Sturdy, Keith Taylor, Paweł Zalewski
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	George Sabin Cutaş, Małgorzata Handzlik, Salvatore Iacolino, Syed Kamall, Maria Eleni Koppa, Jörg Leichtfried, Michael Theurer, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Markus Pieper, Giommara Uggias