



Raising standards for consumers

ANEC views on access to the built environment standardisation

Towards common European criteria on accessibility of the built
environment | Workshop Mandate M/420
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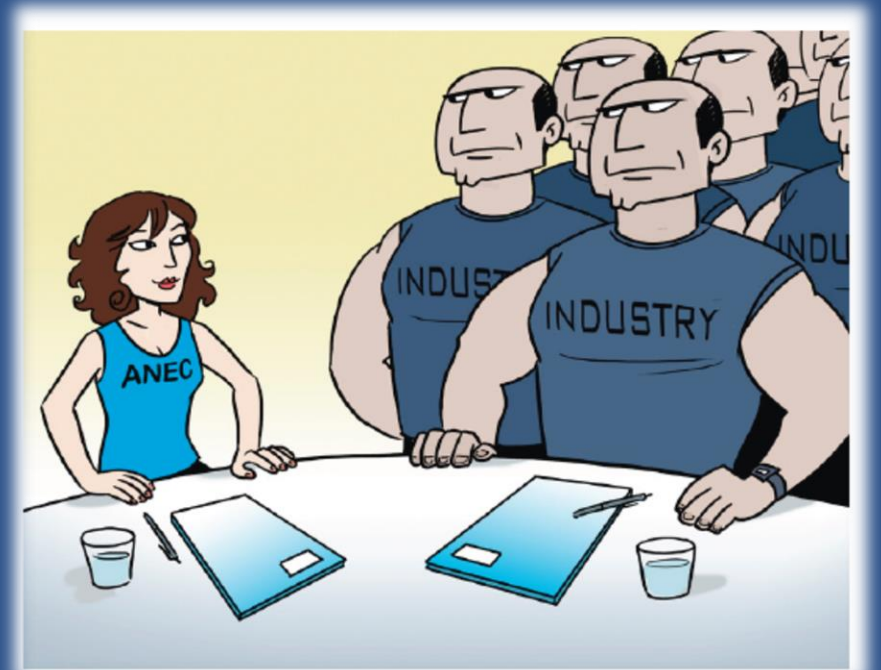
ANEC...



has provided the collective European voice since 1995:

'The European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation'

(or 'The European consumer voice in standardisation')



Facts & figures



Public procurement (buying of works, goods or services by public bodies) accounts for over 14% of EU GDP.

Public procurement commitments under the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Public Procurement (GPA) have been estimated at around EUR 1.3 trillion.

It is regulated by the EU Public Procurement law to make sure the public sector gets the best value for money

55% of EU procurement procedures use lowest price as the only award criterion for public contracts. This indicates that public authorities do not pay enough attention to social, sustainability and innovation criteria.

It is our money and it has to be spent to benefit us!

Expectations



Use of public money that best fits the needs of the community. Therefore, it is not only the price which is important but also the social and green considerations

Inclusive design standardisation as a suitable tool to complement accessibility legislation. But at the same time it is a challenge for standards developers, as to date, few standards address the needs of older consumers or consumers with disabilities

Accessibility to the built environment essential not only for suitable access and use for persons with disabilities but also for their safety by creating an environment where risks are prevented and reduced

Accessible built environment to contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goals (3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17)

Standard to be adopted by unanimity of National Standardisation Bodies and National Committees to show commitment to accessibility and inclusive society.

ANEC involvement



CEN accepted M/420 on 12 June 2008 in Brussels, after intensive lobbying by ANEC members as initially opposed by some CEN/CLC members because it could be seen to be in contradiction with mandatory national requirements.

The work should have started in 2008 but was postponed to 2009.

In February 2010, CEN launched the call for experts for Project Teams to execute M/420 (phase 1). ANEC expert Monika Klenovec was selected. Monika was also selected for leading phase 2 later on. And two other ANEC experts are part of the Project Team.

In October 2020, together with EDF, we organised a public webinar to raise awareness about the approval of prEN 17210. We were pleased to see that the standard was approved by a great majority of standardisation bodies.

Functional requirements



EN 17210:2021 is about functional accessibility requirements, not technical performance criteria and so not conflicting with national standards.

Another standard (FprCEN/TR 17621 “Accessibility and usability of the built environment -Technical performance criteria and specifications) containing technical performance criteria to fulfil the functional requirements will be developed.

As a Technical Report, it will not take precedence on national standards, which could continued to be used.

Conclusions



- Thank you to the European Commission, to CEN/CLC JTC11 and the Project Team (and Monika in particular) for their exceptional work and for making this very long journey together
- Consumers expect to be able to 'go out and about' whatever their ages and abilities
- Standards need to be developed in an inclusive manner, to realise the full potential of the legislative instruments which encourage accessibility, such as Public Procurement legislation
- In order to meet consumer expectations, European functional accessibility requirements for public procurement as technical specifications or award criteria in the tenders, or in support of conformity processes, have to be developed
- We call on National Standardisation Bodies and Committees to form their position on the remaining standards in an open and inclusive manner and to support them.
- From our side, we consumers will continue to actively contribute to this important endeavour.

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ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending consumer interests in the processes of technical standardisation and the use of standards, as well as related legislation and public policies.

ANEC was established in 1995 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law and is open to the representation of national consumer organisations in 34 countries.

ANEC is funded by the European Union and EFTA, with national consumer organisations contributing in kind. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels.

Thank You!

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