



Joint letter to the Permanent Representatives Committee, Council of the European Union

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation on the Market Surveillance of Products

Brussels, 20th January 2014

The EU machinery industry – a world leader providing hundreds of thousands of jobs in Europe – is faced with an alarming reality: the proliferation of non-compliant competing products endangers not only the safety of users and the integrity of the environment but also the competitiveness of our companies.

In the past few years, CECE, CECIMO, CEMA, EUROMAP and FEM have worked intensively with the EU Institutions in order to make market surveillance more effective. Our associations welcomed the EC initiative to issue a Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package (and notably the Market Surveillance of Products Regulation), which showed a commitment to address the problem.

Whilst the European Parliament took a position, the matter is now blocked at the Council's level because of disagreements over the "marking of origin" provision in the Consumer Product Safety Regulation. Unless a solution is found rapidly, the upcoming European Parliament's elections and the nomination of new European Commissioners will delay the whole process until the end of the year at the earliest.

Without judging the merits of the "marking of origin" provision or its relevance to consumer products' safety, our associations find it unacceptable that it brings the MSPR to a stalemate, thus making our companies collateral victims. In the meanwhile, they continue to face major problems due to unfair competition with non-conform products on the EU market.

This is the reason why the industry is calling on the Greek Presidency of the European Council and all the Member States to multiply their efforts to find an agreement in order to finalise the dossier within the current term. However, the current urgency should not be used as an excuse for watering down some good provisions which the industry has supported in the past months (see recommendations of the undersigned associations on triologue negotiations attached).

CECE, CECIMO, CEMA, EUROMAP and FEM wish to highlight that any further delay on this file will only negatively impact on users' safety, environmental protection and European companies' competitiveness.

Yours faithfully,

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Ulrich Adam
CEMA Secretary General

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EUROMAP Secretary General

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About CECE, CECIMO, CEMA, FEM and EUROMAP

CECE

The Committee of European Construction Equipment (www.cece.eu) is the recognised organisation representing and promoting the European construction equipment and related industries in order to achieve a fair competitive environment via harmonised standards and regulations. CECE is a European network consisting of a secretariat in Brussels and national association offices in 14 different European countries. The industry behind CECE comprises 1,200 companies. In 2012, these equipment manufacturers had a total turnover of 25 billion € and employed 130,000 people directly. European construction machines represent around 25% of the worldwide production. Manufacturers include large European and multinational companies with production sites in Europe, but the majority of companies are small or medium-sized.

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CECIMO

CECIMO is the European Association of the Machine Tool Industries. We bring together 15 national Associations of Machine Tool Builders, which represent approximately 1500 industrial enterprises in Europe*, over 80% of which are SMEs. CECIMO covers 98% of total Machine Tool production in Europe and about 34% worldwide. It accounts for almost 150,000 employees and a turnover of over €22 billion in 2012. More than 83% of CECIMO production is shipped abroad, whereas almost half of it is exported outside Europe*. For more information visit www.cecimo.eu

*Europe = EU + EFTA + Turkey

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CEMA

CEMA is the European association representing the agricultural machinery industry. For 50 years CEMA has acted as a network of national associations and provides services, advice and a common European industry view on relevant topics. The industry represented by CEMA includes 4,500 manufacturers of agricultural equipment employing directly 135,000 persons and indirectly in the distribution and service network another 125,000 persons. The companies are mainly small and medium-sized manufacturers according to the EU definition and in 2011 had a total turnover of 26 billion euro.

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EUROMAP

Europe's Association for plastics and rubber machinery manufacturers is a major European industry with almost 3,700 companies which together have an annual turnover of more than 17 billion EURO and about 100,000 employees. EUROMAP covers the plastics and rubber machinery manufacturing industries in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

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FEM

Created in 1953, the European Materials Handling Federation (www.fem-eur.com) represents, defends and promotes European manufacturers of materials handling, lifting and storage equipment. FEM speaks for 15 members representing some 1,000 companies (mostly SMEs) employing 160,000 people directly and with an annual turnover of more than €50 billion (2011).

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