



INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF INSPECTION  
AND CERTIFICATION ORGANISATIONS

# 1st CEOC International Safety Seminar: “Safe Consumer Products & Industrial Installations”

03.02.2010 RENAISSANCE HOTEL BRUSSELS

## CEOC International starts tripartite safety initiative

Brussels 03 February 2010

The first CEOC International Safety Seminar on “Safe Consumer Products & Technical Installations” brought together more than 100 representatives from the European institutions, industry and the testing and inspection sector, who spoke up for safety and consumer protection as a shared goal, thus echoing the statement made by EU Commissioner Meglena Kuneva ‘that there should be no compromise on safety’.

Before Christmas random checks carried out by a CEOC member company showed that more than 80 percent of the tested Christmas light chains should not be allowed on the market due to fire and electric shock risks. Where are the safety gaps in our society and how could they be closed with the support of all stakeholders?

The European institutions highlighted the efforts made with a view to product and industrial safety, mentioning the importance of the RAPEX database (Rapid Alert System for non-food consumer products) and the Conformity Assessment Bodies Fora (CABF) as a basis to draft texts for alignment of the EU Pressure Equipment Directive/ Simple Pressure Equipment Directive (relevant for many industrial installations) among many others.

The EU Legislative Framework for Goods that entered into force this January was described as clearing the way towards upgraded, Europe-wide organised and harmonised control of the market at different stages of the supply chain for goods.

During the CEOC conference at the Brussels Renaissance Hotel such diverse corporations as the multinational oil company Shell, dealing with large-scale oil platforms, and the nanotechnology sector looking at the tiniest particles found in cosmetics and many other products, lined up behind the common approach to minimise risk and maximise safety in the interest of companies and consumers.

Representatives from prominent CEOC members and global players in the market reminded the audience that unsafe products and industrial installations are detrimental for society and companies themselves. Under increasing market pressure companies are obliged to improve business performance while becoming more socially responsible, two aims that are sometimes in conflict. However, failure of a critical asset in a high-risk business sector normally has a significant impact on the safety, health, environment or the reputation and profitability of the business. A short-term focus on reducing asset-management costs will often result in higher risk and long-term loss of value for the organisation.

According to the high-level guest speakers and the high number of participants, the conference found a gap in the overall concern for safety and security. CEOC International, the International Confederation of Inspection and Certification Organisations, together with its allies, will follow up and combine efforts on the national, European and international stages in order to make CEOC’s slogan “providing safety in an uncertain world” a reality for everyone.

If you wish to receive further information on this event and related issues, please contact Astrid Silvia Grunert, EU Affairs Manager at CEOC International: [astrid.grunert@ceoc.com](mailto:astrid.grunert@ceoc.com).