

Brussels, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011



## **European Commission initiative on Market Surveillance: CECIP is on board**

**The European Commission will organize a conference in Brussels on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011 to discuss market surveillance concerning machinery. CECIP applauds this action and participates in a sectorial industry platform to support the authorities.**

The European weighing industry faces an economic disadvantage and has a major problem when it comes to “fair competition” in the EU.

“We have been asking authorities to ensure a fair level of competition in Europe with enforced controls at the borders and on the market. This would ensure compliance and safety of products and therefore fair competition, which can only be possible if market surveillance is duly implemented and illegal products are kept out of the EU.” says Vincent van der Wel, President of CECIP.

CECIP Business & Trade Group (BTG) conducted in 2009 some tests according to OIML R76 on weighing equipment bought from extra-European manufacturers. The tests have been conducted in a few certified weighing laboratories.

In total 37 scales were tested. The result was shattering: 36 out of 37 scales did not pass the tests and missed the OIML R76 requirements.

Although CECIP was aware that such number of scales does not include a statistically significant sample, the outcome of the exercise provides strong evidence that market surveillance in the EU does not deliver the expected results.

Finally, the European Commission has decided to organize a Conference on Market surveillance concerning the machinery sector in Brussels on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

A representative of the European weighing industry sector will be speaking at the conference: Urs Widmer, Head of Industrial division at Mettler Toledo.

Representatives of the national governments, the Commission, the European Parliament and the industry are attending the conference, 300 people are expected to register.

The program foresees several panels in which issues such as the competitiveness of the industry, the protection of innovation and some best practices applied in other continents and/or initiated by the industry will be addressed.

In addition, a manifesto with 10 recommendations for enhancing market surveillance will be signed by representatives of 7 federations on behalf of their members. The detailed programme of the conference is available online at [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/mechanical/machinery/market-surveillance/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/mechanical/machinery/market-surveillance/index_en.htm).

Besides, some concerned sectors of the mechanical engineering industry decided to undertake some actions to support the Commission initiative. Seven European mechanical

engineering associations, including CECIP, set up a common task force and web platform on market surveillance.

The web platform (<http://machinery-surveillance.eu>) is a joint initiative of the European machinery industries to show their clear commitment to help improve market surveillance for capital goods in the EU. It is designed to serve as a resource database consisting of technical documents from European machinery industries, including scales. This information is specifically targeting authorities but also customers to encourage them not to purchase illegal products.

CECIP guide on non automatic weighing instruments is uploaded on the webplatform as well. In addition, the website is enriched with testimonials (videos) from industrialists.

“Market surveillance should contribute to keep Europe as a strategic manufacturing location and this conference is a step in the right direction.” says Valentina Mauri, Secretary General of CECIP, “Although Member States remain responsible for market surveillance, it is clear that some coordination should come from Brussels as well. The European authorities are demonstrating they are serious about it, and we want to contribute to this effort together with our colleagues from other sectors.” concludes Ms Mauri “We hope that the same cooperation that we achieved among the different industry sectors on this issue will also be possible with the national authorities. The only way to keep illegal products out of the market is to work all together.”

CECIP is the European association for national trade organisations representing the European manufacturers of weighing instruments. Founded in 1958, CECIP has today 15 member associations: Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

European weighing instruments manufacturers, including members of CECIP, represent over 50% of the worldwide trade volume. There are ca. 700 companies active in the production of weighing instruments (many of them being partly or even over 50% active on related fields as well). The weighing industry in total employs around 50.000 people and has a turnover of around 3 billion Euro.