



ANEC/CI Statement to the World Forum for the Harmonisation of Vehicle regulations (UNECE WP 29)

ANEC and Consumers International (CI) welcome the adoption of the new Regulation on uniform provisions concerning the approval of enhanced Child Restraint Systems (CRS) used on-board motor vehicles (the "I-size Regulation").

For consumer groups, this is not just another Regulation. It is a milestone that must be applauded. The development of the Regulation started after consumer groups expressed concerns about shortcomings in the current ECE R44. In a new approach, and starting from scratch, the informal group on CRS has delivered requirements to achieve easier-to-use CRS, incorporating an easier-to-understand stature-based classification system, and most importantly, to ensure better protection for the youngest and most vulnerable of all consumers. For the first time, a side impact test procedure is included in the Regulation.

Not only that, but the Regulation sets 15 months as the age until which children must be transported in rearward-facing CRS. The provisions of ECE R44 often saw children moved to forward-facing CRS at only 6 months of age, even though studies (including those done by ANEC) have shown that children suffer fewer fatalities or serious injuries if transported in rearward-facing CRS until at least three years of age. We believe the new Regulation to be a step in the right direction, although we trust the improved effects on child safety of its implementation will encourage the age limit to be raised.

We were glad to participate in the informal group on CRS, appreciated the spirit of co-operation, and welcomed the efforts of OICA and CLEPA members to improve the car-CRS interface in order to make CRS more universal. We think the agreement achieved will help combat misuse and hence contribute to improved child safety.

Of course, we look forward to contributing to the further development of the Regulation.