



EUROLAB Special Briefing

European Commission proposal to make the internal market leaner for eight industry sectors - Harmonisation EU safety rules

In addition to the Special Briefing on "[EU calls for industrial renaissance](#)", we herewith inform you about the European Commission proposal to make the internal market leaner for eight industry sectors.

The European Commission welcomed the vote of the European Parliament on the Commission proposal to make the internal market leaner for eight industry sectors.

European Commission Vice President Antonio Tajani, Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, said: "05th February vote is a particular achievement given the complexity of the sectors. A genuine internal market for product supporting the industrial base in the EU requires consistent and coherent product rules. This is what we offer now to the industry in the EU. Thanks to the increased legal certainty, manufacturers can now better organise their manufacturing processes, enhance the quality and safety of products and invest in innovation. 05th February decision is in line with our strategy to increase the share of industry in GDP."

Lifts, electrical and electronic equipment, simple pressure vessels, non-automatic weighing instruments, measuring instruments, explosives for civil uses, equipment used in explosive atmospheres and products which cause electromagnetic disturbances are included.

The objective of this legislation is to make product safety more effective across the EU and to ensure greater consistency and easy of complying with the rules throughout all sectors. Different labelling or traceability requirements as well as divergences regarding the declaration of conformity and in the legal definitions that apply, will no longer exist. The initiative is part of the modernization of the EU product legislation to simplify rules, reduce administrative burdens and introduce clearer and more coherent rules across many sectors. This will lower compliance costs for businesses, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises in line with the recent Commission Communication on "A Vision for the internal market legislation for industrial products".

Streamlined rules will make business easier

The updated rules aim to ensure easier market access and a higher level of protection of life and property. They will involve:

- **Clearer responsibilities for manufacturers, importers and distributors** when they sell products (e.g. in terms of conformity marking, labelling and traceability of products);
- Possibility for **wider use of electronic means** for economic operators when demonstrating compliance; for example products' technical documentation should not necessarily be in paper form and may be sent to market surveillance authorities electronically;
- More **guarantees for consumer safety** through a traceability system allowing the tracking of defective or unsafe products and through clearer rules and improved supervision of conformity assessment bodies;
- Better **equipping national market surveillance authorities to track and stop dangerous imports from non-EU countries**.

Products that comply with these rules can then carry CE marking to show they meet all the requirements set out EU legislation.

The initiative is part of a general effort to align industrial product rules to a common set of principles. Its aim is to avoid sectorial fragmentation and conflicting or overlapping requirements for products which are governed by more than one piece of legislation.

The Directives involved are:

- Radio equipment: harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market Directive: [2012/0283\(COD\)](#)
- Electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits Directive: [2011/0357\(COD\)](#)
- Equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmosphere Directive: [2011/0356\(COD\)](#)
- Simple pressure vessels Directive: [2011/0350\(COD\)](#)
- Measuring instruments Directive: [2011/0353\(COD\)](#)
- Electromagnetic compatibility Directive: [2011/0351\(COD\)](#)
- Lifts and safety components for lifts Directive: [2011/0354 \(COD\)](#)
- Explosives for civil uses Directive: [2011/0349 \(COD\)](#)
- Non-automatic weighing instruments Directive: [2011/0352 \(COD\)](#)

How the new rules will benefit industry

The current rules have been developed gradually over the last 40 years resulting in some discrepancy in the different sectorial requirements. Yet, complex products fall under the scope of several sectorial rules creating difficulties for economic operators, such as different labelling or traceability requirements, divergences regarding the declaration of conformity and in the legal definitions that apply. With the Alignment to the New Legislative Framework, these possible divergences or discrepancies are eliminated. Economic operators are allowed to provide a single declaration of conformity per product. Labelling and traceability requirements are uniform across products. The procedures to demonstrate the conformity of a product with the applicable rules are also harmonised taking into account the safety imperatives and complexity of products.

For further information:

European Commission press release: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-111_en.htm