



## PROSAFE participated in a debate on Product Safety - A 21st Century Approach on 4 September 2018

PROSAFE has been invited to share its views on Product Safety - A 21st Century Approach in a debate organised by [EMOTA](#) and hosted by MEP Selimović on 4 September 2018 in the European Parliament.

The invited speakers were as follows:

- MEP Selimović, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
- James Waterworth, Director of EU Public Affairs, Amazon
- Ioana Zlotila, Executive Director, PROSAFE
- Kevin Rodler, Chief Compliance Officer, Thomann GmbH

The event was moderated by Maurits Bruggink, the Secretary General of EMOTA. MEP Selimović opened up the discussion by giving remarks on the compliance and enforcement proposal of the European Commission. There is a need for action and cooperation to increase the safety of products being sold online. It is necessary that Member States inform each other about the enforcement actions taken at national level. Therefore, the cooperation between the Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) at the EU level has to be enhanced.

James Waterworth, Director of EU Public Affairs from Amazon said that the tools to protect consumers have to be based on customers' feedback, notifications from the MSAs such as [RAPEX](#) and other efficient tools. We should focus on both online and offline channels to protect customers in a maximised way. Communication and cooperation between the industry and MSAs, as well as the quality of data provided by MSAs, is crucial in order to take action on unsafe products quickly. Customers have to be immediately informed about dangerous products in order to protect them and emphasis has to be put on high risk product categories. Ioana Zlotila, the Executive Director of PROSAFE has shared the views and challenges of the Market Surveillance Authorities. She stressed that one of the MSAs' challenges is represented by the limited responsibilities of the Internet market places, meaning that the authorities have to rely on their willingness to take voluntary corrective actions in relation to non-compliant and unsafe products. She also mentioned that the growth of e-commerce has served to highlight the importance of cross-border cooperation between the Member States' MSAs and even cooperation with authorities outside Europe.

The Joint Actions coordinated by PROSAFE and funded by the European Commission have provided a useful platform to develop such cooperation. However, the practical experience from the Joint Actions has also demonstrated the need to further strengthen and enhance the market surveillance framework in Europe.



Kevin Rodler, Chief Compliance Officer from Thomann GmbH has mainly brought to attention the fact that assigning of a responsible person for vendors located outside the EU will not ensure that the products being sold by this vendor are safe to customers. This again shows that strengthening of the market surveillance activities is necessary.

After a Question and Answer session, the event was closed by the MEP Selimović stating that a communication line between the industry and the authorities has to be set up to take the necessary action on unsafe products. He stressed that it is crucial to build consumer trust in the EU Internal market.

Finally, it was agreed that more work needs to be done to increase the safety of products sold on the internet market places. Therefore, PROSAFE looks forward to the adoption of the compliance and enforcement proposal to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of market surveillance in Europe more broadly.