

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Time to make market surveillance work: machinery industry provides impetus to support public action**

Today, an industry support platform<sup>1</sup> was launched at the occasion of a one day conference<sup>2</sup> on market surveillance of machinery hosted by the European Commission. Aimed at market surveillance authorities and market operators, the platform is designed specifically for machinery (the 'capital goods' market) and consists in a resource database to assess compliance of machinery equipment with relevant EU regulatory requirements.

The platform is a joint initiative of 7 European trade associations<sup>3</sup> from the machinery industry. It reflects the industry's commitment to play an active role in improving market surveillance for machinery. The idea is embedded in a manifesto<sup>4</sup>, signed during the conference, and which offers 10 key recommendations for effective market surveillance.

The conference's focus on capital goods has highlighted a shortcoming in the Internal Market - often cited as complete - where all too often it is consumer goods that are given headlines. The market surveillance system is seen as predominantly reactive rather than preventive, resulting in a significant number of non-compliant machines placed on the EU market.

Speakers from a variety of machinery sectors explained how a deficient market surveillance system has a negative impact on competition, environmental protection, innovation, jobs and, probably most importantly, on the health and safety of the workers using the machinery - an area in which industry and trade unions are clearly in step.

The conference also provided an opportunity to consider solutions to improve the situation. DG TAXUD showed the central role that customs authorities must play to prevent imports of non-compliant products. Furthermore, best practice examples were presented within both the EU and its close neighbours (EFTA), some involving active participation from the EU industry.

Industry has repeatedly stressed the importance of market surveillance. Although legally, it is up to the Member States to carry out market surveillance so as to make sure that products on the European market respect our rules and regulations, the machinery industry is committed to working with the authorities and to provide assistance, whether in the form of technical support (as provided by the platform) or, for instance, by alerting authorities on non-compliant machinery entering or circulating on the Internal Market. It is by working together that Member States, the EU and industry will achieve effective market surveillance and therefore both a high degree of safety and also a level playing field in the EU.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://machinery-surveillance.eu/>

<sup>2</sup> [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)

<sup>3</sup> CECE, CECIMO, CECIP, CEMA, EUROMAP, FEM and Orgalime

<sup>4</sup> <http://machinery-surveillance.eu/page/manifesto>



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