

EN
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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
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The European Commission is committed to ensuring that all products on the EU market, regardless of origin, are safe. If not already required for specific products by the relevant EU harmonised legislation, under the General Product Safety Regulation (GPSR)¹, consumer products from third countries that are available on the EU markets must meet the same safety rules as EU-manufactured products. The Commission is also working on a guidance document assisting small and medium-sized enterprises' compliance.

Article 28 of the GPSR empowers the Commission to take Union actions, such as prohibiting, restricting or suspending, the sale of certain products presenting a serious risk, under specific conditions, for example when a serious risk cannot be effectively addressed by Member States alone, ensuring consistent protection across the EU. In such cases, Member States would need to take all necessary enforcement measures as a follow up of such implementing act.

The Commission promotes consumer empowerment through targeted funding, and networks like the European Consumer Centres Network, which provides free advice and runs awareness campaigns and self-help tools. It also funds initiatives such as ConsumerPro to reinforce the capacity of consumer professionals and supports consumer education initiatives across the EU under the Single Market Programme. These actions cover consumer rights, digital literacy, and sustainable consumption. Moreover, the GPSR introduced the possibility for consumers to send complaints to the national authorities about unsafe products.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2023/988 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 2023 on general product safety, amending Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive (EU) 2020/1828 of the European Parliament and the Council, and repealing Directive 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 87/357/EEC (Text with EEA relevance).