

Press release

Strengthening the EU Market by addressing harmonisation, compliance, procurement, and standardisation gaps

The European Commission today unveiled the 'Strategy for making the Single Market simple, seamless and strong' alongside its Omnibus proposal. While the Strategy points in the right direction in some areas, it falls short of delivering concrete actions in others. Our main points are as follows.

“Harmonised rules are crucial for eliminating regulatory fragmentation, reducing the administrative burden and ensuring fair competition. For a well-functioning single market, it is also essential that these rules are effectively enforced both online and offline. To support the growth of European industry, European businesses also need harmonised and timely standards, and, for the quality and sustainability of products, to be rewarded in public procurement. The proposal to digitalise the declarations of conformity and other product documentation is a welcomed step to ease burdens on European manufacturers.” said Elena Scaroni, Secretary General of LightingEurope.

Addressing the lack of product compliance online for a well-functioning Single Market

The Strategy rightly points at the issue of **non-compliant products flooding the EU market, especially through online sales channels**. In our most recent online mystery shopper exercise, **all products tested** in an accredited laboratory against relevant safety standards **failed to comply with EU rules**. “Products entering the EU market must comply with all EU requirements. We welcome the announced revision of the New Legislative Framework. We call for ambitious revision of the Market Surveillance Regulation that will **recognise online marketplaces as economic operators**,” stressed Marion Ebel, Director of Corporate Affairs.

Non-Price Criteria in Public Procurement Directive review

“We welcome the upcoming revision of the Public Procurement Directive and the objective to **go beyond the ‘lowest price’ approach**. We must **reward performance, quality and sustainability**”, added Marion Ebel.

Harmonised Standards

“While a revision of the Standardisation Regulation is welcomed, it is fundamental to **address the implementation flaws that have slowed standardisation and limited harmonisation**. The current system in which external consultants comment international draft standards documents has slowed development, led to discrepancies between European and international standards and ultimately delayed and hampered harmonisation”, Elena Scaroni concluded.

For more information, please contact Elena Scaroni, Secretary General of LightingEurope through elena.scaroni@lightingeurope.org.

About LightingEurope

LightingEurope is the voice of the lighting industry, based in Brussels and representing 32 companies and national associations. Together these members account for over 1,000 European companies, a majority of which are small or medium-sized. They represent a total European workforce of over 80,000 people and an annual turnover exceeding 15 billion euro. LightingEurope is committed to promoting efficient lighting that benefits human comfort, safety and well-being, and the environment. LightingEurope advocates a positive business and regulatory environment to foster fair competition and growth for the European lighting industry. More information is available at www.lightingeurope.org.