

We're on the Web!
<http://www.prosafe.org>

Presentation given by European Commissioner John Dalli during the last PROSAFE Meeting on 30th April 2010.

PROSAFE Meeting in Malta

Besides various other points related to market surveillance activities, Commissioner Dalli thanked PROSAFE for the contribution given to improve the cooperation between surveillance authorities in Member States.

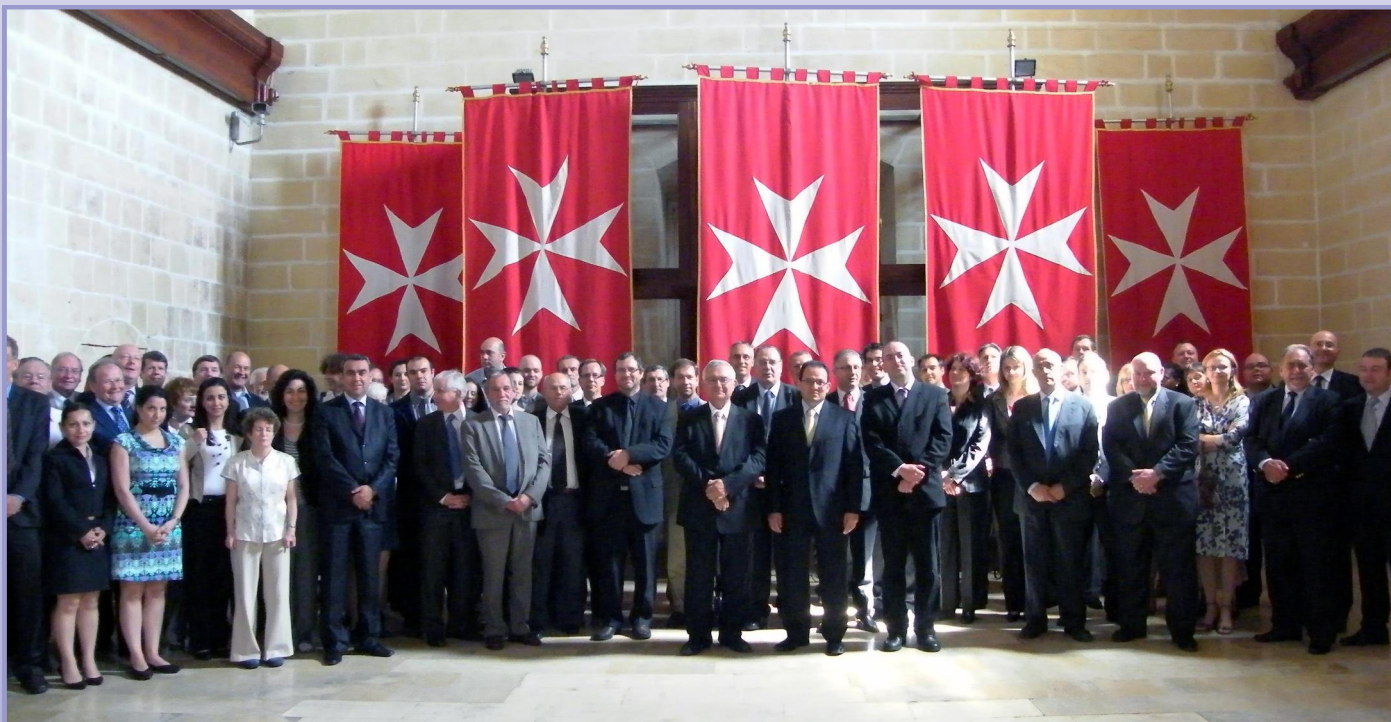
He also suggested that the revision of the General Product Safety Directive could also provide an opportunity for PROSAFE to further discuss what may be needed to provide a better platform for effective coordination of market surveillance activities.

A copy of his speech as well



European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, John Dalli addressing the PROSAFE General Assembly held in the Mediterranean Conference Centre (MCC) in Malta on 30th April 2010.

as a video clip of his presentation, including that given by Dr. Chris Said, Maltese Parliamentary Secretary for Consumers, Fair Competition, Local Councils & Public Dialogue can be found by clicking on the respective hyperlinks within the main PROSAFE homepage - www.prosafe.org .



Commissioner Dalli, Dr. Chris Said - Maltese Parliamentary Secretary for Consumers, Fair Competition, Local Councils & Public Dialogue and Jan Deconinck, PROSAFE Chairman in the centre of the picture together with over 70 participants taking part in this PROSAFE General Assembly. Immediately afterwards, Commissioner Dalli visited the production facility of Playmobil in Malta together with various PROSAFE Board Members and senior officials from the Malta Standards Authority whereby he then gave a final address to the media.

Presentations from European Commission Representatives

Robert Nuij, Unit B3, DG Health and Consumer Policy updated the General Assembly with what the Commission was doing on an international level, including the strengthening of an EU-US collaboration and the further strengthening of ties with China and eastern countries. Additionally, the Commission was trying to better establish participation, possibly with assistance from PROSAFE, in the current OECD Working Party that was set up only recently to further improve market surveillance at an international level.

He also suggested that PROSAFE and market surveillance authorities should take an active role in the current revision of the General Product Safety Directive to further improve the legislative requirements.



Libor Mynar, Unit B1, DG-Taxation and Customs Union explained to the General Assembly that a special Product Safety Project Group has been established in order to produce guidelines for customs controls in the area of product safety. This is due to the new responsibilities according to EC Regulation 765/2008.

The importance of a harmonized approach between the Commission and the respective market surveillance authorities was emphasized in order to effectively implement these border controls in the area of product safety. The first meeting of this project group was held in April 2010 and three other meetings are expected to take place in February 2011 upon which the final recommendations will be established. The contribution and cooperation from market surveillance was underlined in order to ensure practical and effective recommendations.

Rita L'Abbate, Unit C1, DG Enterprise & Industry highlighted the relationship between the General Product Safety Directive and the EC Regulation 765/2008 and the possible gap that exists in the area of non-harmonized products that do not target consumers.

The initial implementation phase of this Regulation stimulated the market surveillance authorities to develop on time and submit national market surveillance programmes to the Commission whereby the majority have publicized them on their national websites.

Additionally, she also explained the present situation on the new GRAS-RAPEX platform to be used as a rapid alert system and the further development of the market surveillance database ICSMS.



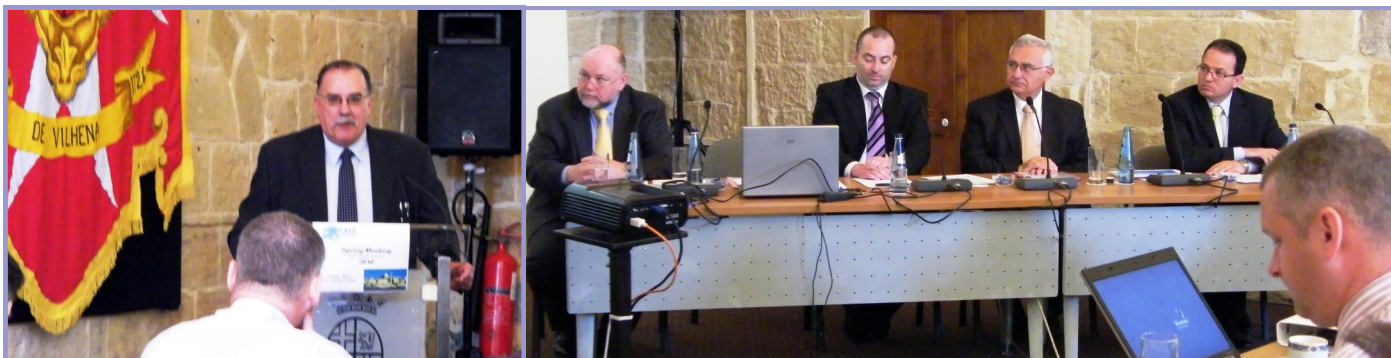
The Malta Standards Authority, the host of this PROSAFE Meeting

Michael Cassar, the Director of the Market Surveillance Directorate within the Malta Standards Authority and PROSAFE Board Member hosted this PROSAFE General Assembly meeting in the Malta Conference Centre, the former *Sacra Infermeria*, where the Knights Hospitalier of St. John (better known as the Knights of Malta) opened this building as an infirmary in 1575.

This particular PROSAFE General Assembly has become of historical importance due to, not only the largest gathering of PROSAFE members participating in such an event (with over 70 participants attending this meeting) but also due to the presence of the European Commissioner John Dalli who was kind enough to give a presentation to the Assembly which was inspirational to



both the Members as well as the PROSAFE Board itself. The participation from DG Health and Consumer Policy, DG Enterprise and Industry and DG TAXUD together with participation from EFTA also shows the growing importance being given to PROSAFE to become a focal point for effective coordination amongst market surveillance authorities at European level. Additionally, PROSAFE this year also marks its 20th Anniversary from its foundation which was established in 1990 by a small group of market surveillance officers, some of whom are still active within this organisation.



(Above-left) *Ing. Francis Farrugia, the Chairman of the Malta Standards Authority during his welcoming speech, with (above-right) Alan Kaufman - Vice President, Quality Assurance, Safety Compliance for Toys "R" Us from the United States, Jan Deconinck - PROSAFE Chairman, Commissioner John Dalli and Dr. Chris Said - Maltese Parliamentary Secretary listening on. (Left) PROSAFE Members, including Representatives from the Commission and also from EFTA.*

Around 70 participants from 24 different countries participated in this PROSAFE Meeting. The real effectiveness of these meetings also comes from the sharing of best practices amongst market surveillance officials during these meetings. All information about these PROSAFE meetings as well as best practices derived from joint actions coordinated by PROSAFE are all gathered in a special web-management system managed directly by PROSAFE, for the sole use of its members and those directly participating in these joint actions.



A big round of applause to Dirk Meijer . . .



During this same PROSAFE Meeting, the Board as well as all its members present gave a generous, rapturous and heartfelt round of applause to Dirk Meijer, on his last day as CEO of PROSAFE. Dirk has been a devoted, dedicated and loyal member of PROSAFE, firstly as the Chairman of PROSAFE for a number of years and later in his post as the first CEO of PROSAFE in which he served most efficiently.

He continued to work, even during this PROSAFE meeting, updating the members with the latest information on all the joint actions being organised by PROSAFE and on the achievements of PROSAFE on an international level, in particular, through the ICPSC (the International Consumer Product Safety Caucus) which he also chairs.

Before Dirk took up this post as the CEO of PROSAFE, he was regional Director of the South west for the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA).

The region South west is the centre of expertise for product safety and import. Dirk will continue working within the VWA, aiming at, in particular, utilising and maximising his extensive knowledge and experience at a European and International level.



One of the main halls within the Mediterranean Conference Centre (MCC) in Malta, being admired by a number of participants.

This hall was one of the main three halls used as an infirmary initially by the Knights of St. John from the 16th century and even later on up till the end of the 19th century. The PROSAFE General Assembly was organised at the MCC in one of the conference halls coordinated by the Malta Standards Authority.

New Executive Director, Nicolaas Olie appointed.

The new Executive Director, Nicolaas Olie, has been appointed by PROSAFE to take over the executive tasks of the organisation.

Nicolaas Olie has been the first Director of the South west region of the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA) until 2005, when he retired from VWA and was succeeded by Dirk Meijer. He was a co-founder of PROSAFE in 1991 and has been a member of PROSAFE until his nomination to Honorary Member in 2006. After retiring from VWA, he has continued to provide various and extensive consultancy services across Europe and beyond.

All those present during the General Assembly congratulated Nicolaas Olie for taking up what will no doubt be an exciting and challenging opportunity. The Board wished him every success for the coming year.

