



Consumer Safety and Health Network
Organization of American States
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December 8, 2021

The Consumer Safety and Health Network holds its Eighth Annual Meeting and International Workshop on Product Safety 2021

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the OAS Consumer Safety and Health Network, hosted by the Superintendence of Industry of Commerce of Colombia, was held online on November 30th. This is the second year that the annual meeting of the Network took place online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was attended by 16 members of the 21-member network.

During the meeting, the 2020-2021 Management Committee comprised of Uruguay, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Peru shared advances made in the work plan developed for the period. Some of those advances included the improvement of the communications strategy of the Network, the enhancement of strategic alliances with other multilateral organizations, the elaboration of a regional study of current developments in consumer protection in digital environments as well as a study of risk management of potentially harmful products in each country.

After the report, Colombia assumed the presidency of the 2021-2022 management committee and introduced the network members to the new "Inter-American Rapid Alerts System (SIAR) during the meeting.

The SIAR is a virtual space that allows consumer protection authorities from throughout the Americas to exchange information on best practices in the field and to share information about dangerous consumer products in the markets of the region. The new SIAR is more user friendly and intuitive and accessible to consumers throughout the region. In 2022, the CSHN will focus on promoting SIAR 2.0 so that this important tool is known and utilized by consumers throughout the region.

During this meeting, Colombia also presented its proposed work plan for 2020-2021 which included the organization of webinars and meetings to discuss current issues in the field, the development of a product safety campaign of the Network itself, and the creation of a product safety campaign for the Network and linking the SIAR with the OECD Global Recall Portal, among other things.

In addition, the Network members elected Argentina as Chair of the 2022-2023 Management Committee, Chile and Costa Rica as delegate members, and Jamaica as Associate member. The current composition of the 2021-2022 Committee includes Uruguay (1st Vice President), Argentina (2nd Vice President), Chile (Delegate Member), Costa Rica (Delegate Member) and Jamaica (Associate Member).



The following day, on December 1st, Colombia, as President of the Network hosted the International Workshop on Product Safety “Product Safety in a Globalized Digital Marketplace” that was attended by members of the Network, and representatives from private sector and civil society.