

## The Consumer Safety and Health Network celebrated its Fifth Technical Advisory Group Meeting

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Last Wednesday, September 21, the Technical Advisory Group of the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) met in Buenos Aires, Argentina to discuss issues of relevance in the area of product safety and its impact on health. The group also outlined the next steps in the consolidation of the Network, as well as the design of an Inter-American Rapid Alert System, in accordance to the OAS General Assembly mandate expressed in resolution AG / RES 2682 (XLI-O/11) on June 2011. During the meeting the

progress on the implementation of the Network was presented, and national authorities stressed the importance of continuing efforts to deepen coordination, dissemination and capacity building activities, highlighting the role of the CSHN as the first inter-American effort specialized on consumer product safety and its impact on health.

The gathered officials also stressed the need to further promote intra-national cooperation between agencies with market surveillance expertise, particularly on consumer protection, health and metrology. In this context, the delegation of Brazil shared with the group their experience around the newly created inter-ministerial group "Consumer Safety and Health Brazil." During this instance, a plan to develop a proposal for incorporating civil society actors to the Network, which will be implemented once the Inter-American Rapid Alert System is established, was also discussed. Finally, the participants agreed on details for the upcoming capacity building activities, particularly the second CSHN graduate course and the Seminar on Damages Repair for Defective Products.

The Technical Advisory Group meeting was possible thanks to the organization of the Under Secretariat of Consumer Protection within the Ministry of Economy and Public Finance of Argentina, which also hosted on September 22 and 23 the V Ibero-American Forum for Consumer Protection Government Agencies, where the work carried out within the CSHN framework was presented and the importance of continuing efforts to deepen the subject reiterated.

The Consumer Safety and Health Network is coordinated by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the Organization of American States (OAS) through the Department of Social Development and Employment (DSDE), in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization and backed by Consumers International, who has represented civil society at all levels of the Network.

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