Online Platforms: Role and Responsibility in Ecodesign Policy

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Sustainable products in a digital age –
E-commerce compliance in the ESPR and the Green Deal

Hybrid event hosted by MEP Alessandra Moretti

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AIMS:

• Identify risks with the ESPR proposal in relation to e-commerce trading.

• Produce recommendations to mitigate these risks.
# Challenges 1: Difficulty Understanding E-commerce Actors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E-commerce economic actors</th>
<th>Omni channel retailers</th>
<th>‘Pure’ online retailers</th>
<th>Fulfilment Service Providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brands</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>65.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Retailers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Marketplaces</td>
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Challenges 2: E-commerce Sales Routes

Non-EU Manufacturer

Web Shop
(e.g., Shein)

EU Wholesalers/ Distributors

Non-EU Wholesalers/ Distributors

Who should be obligated as the Importer?

EU Retailer
Closed Online Marketplace (e.g., Asos.de)

EU Retailer
Open Online Marketplace (e.g., eBay.com)

EU Retailer
Closed Online Marketplace (e.g., C-Discount.fr)

EU Retailer
Open Online Marketplace (e.g., 2ememain.be)

EU Retailer
Closed Online Marketplace (e.g., Otto.de)

EU Retailer
Open Online Marketplace (e.g., eBay.com)

Non-EU Retailer
Closed Online Marketplace (e.g., Alibaba)

Non-EU Retailer
Open Online Marketplace (e.g., Alibaba)

Who should be obligated as the Importer?

FSP

EU Consumer
Risks Created by Previous Legislation

Digital Services Act of 2022

- Increased traceability of traders using online platforms

- Upholds that online marketplaces should not be subject to ‘General monitoring obligations’

- Liability of marketplaces limited due to role as intermediary

  “Intermediary service providers, which include online marketplaces, are exempt from liability for damages or criminal sanctions related to the content provided by third parties using their networks.” (PLD)
Risks within the ESPR Proposal

Legislative Gaps:

1. Inadequate provision for products manufactured outside of the EU and sold through online marketplaces.
2. Limited requirements on fulfilment service providers
3. Lack of clarity in text on destruction of unsold goods
4. Exemptions for SMEs

Wider Risks

1. Insufficient deterrent to ensure compliance
2. Product information for consumers could be misleading
3. Lack of communication around legal roles will contribute to non-compliance
Key Recommendations

1. Liable economic actor in the EU
2. FSPs with stronger obligations
3. Online marketplaces only allow compliant products
4. Effective enforcement is essential
Thanks for Listening