



The European Association of Electrical Contractors

AIE comments in relation to Low Voltage Directive consultation

Brussels, 1 April 2019

AIE is the EU Electrical Contractors Association. Through our member associations from several European countries, we represent more than 100.000 electro-technical businesses and more than 1 million electricians across Europe.

With the emergence of new power-based and digital technologies, electrical contractors' activities are becoming sophisticated, complex and wide-ranging. Electro-technical businesses are involved in the design, installation, maintenance and replacement of hardware and software on power plants, electrical, lighting, mobility and IT infrastructure, as well as all sort of electrical, lighting and IT solutions in residential, tertiary and industrial buildings.

Electrical contractors are the main professional user of products covered by the Low Voltage Directive. They play a key role in:

1. Making sure that products are integrated into installations in a safe manner
2. Advising consumers and preventing them from purchasing/using non-compliant/counterfeited products.

Electrical contractors are key intermediaries between manufacturers and users of LVD products.

AIE believe that the LVD has greatly contributed to making sure that the products under scope which are sold on the EU market are safe. We think that this piece of legislation does not require particular adjustments.

In relation to products under the scope of this Directive we would like to point out that products multiply and evolve very fast today. Hence, electrical contractors are ramping up their efforts to gather the necessary competences, skills and qualifications that are needed to deliver safe installations using LVD compliant products. Electrical contractors do however experience some difficulties when they would like to offer cutting-edge products to European consumers but are unable to so due to the unavailability of harmonized standards for these products. AIE would therefore suggest that the Commission and relevant authorities evaluate options to speed up harmonized standard procedures, making sure that they keep pace with fast-evolving power-based solutions on the European market.

AIE stands ready to provide more information about our sector and our views on this and related pieces of legislation. For any enquiries, please contact Giorgia Concas, AIE Secretary General: 0032 490 11 36 90 giorgia.concas@aie.eu.

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