

LONDON CONFERENCE ON HOME SAFETY RESEARCH AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION

London, Lancaster House, 4 - 5 November 1986

A European Conference on home safety research and accident prevention is to take place in Lancaster House, London, next Tuesday and Wednesday. The Conference, sponsored by the Commission of the European Community, is being organised by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) together with the Consumers in the European Community Group (CECG). The CECG is the umbrella body for 27 United Kingdom organisations concerned with EC consumer issues.

The Conference marks the tenth anniversary of the UK Home Accident Surveillance System (HASS) and the start of a European Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System (EHLASS), called into being by the Council of Ministers on April 22 1986.

The new European System began in September, based on experience gained in the UK with HASS and in the Netherlands with the similar PORS system. The Conference at Lancaster House will provide an opportunity for sharing information between the Community partners and for improving the efficiency of the EHLASS system.

Special emphasis will be laid during the Conference on home safety research, which is a new and underdeveloped area of research. The Community's outline programme on research activities and technological development for the first time introduces a special chapter concerning research on risks in the private environment. The London Conference will contribute to the identification of specific research requirements in this area, which could be taken into account by the Community Research Programme.

The Conference will be opened by Mr Michael Howard, UK Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs. The European Commission will be represented by Mr Jeremiah Sheehan, Director for Protection and Promotion of Consumer Interests.

More than 170 delegates from member state governments and consumer organisations are expected to attend the conference, which is being organised in London as one of the events marking the UK Presidency.

Some 50,000 people throughout the Community are estimated to die each year because of accidents in the home, 5,500 in the UK alone, nearly as many as in road accidents. Many more suffer serious injury.

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