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## **European consumer delegation discusses consumer priorities for Hungarian EU Presidency with State Secretary**

A delegation headed by Paolo Martinello, President of the European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC) and Dr. György Morvay, President of the National Association for Consumer Protection in Hungary (OFE), met with Hungarian State Secretary, Dr. Zoltán Cséfalvay and other high-level Hungarian government officials on December 21 in Budapest to discuss consumer priorities for the upcoming Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Among the broad range of topics discussed, special attention was paid to the highly controversial Consumer Rights Directive, a legislative proposal that will be high on the agenda of the Hungarian government. Recent disappointing developments at EU level risk substantially reducing the scope of this major proposal. BEUC and OFE therefore call upon the Hungarian government to lead the European Parliament and EU Member States towards a Directive which will consolidate and strengthen European consumers' rights, not reduce them. BEUC and OFE welcomed the fact that the State Secretary and government officials noted with interest our organisations' proposal to include digital content into this Directive.

Another key dossier Hungary will take a lead on is the reshaping of the Single Market. BEUC and OFE restated that the Single Market must put the consumer centre stage and provide Europeans with a functional framework of protective rights. A Hungarian consumer should have the same rights as a consumer from Portugal or Finland, no matter if he makes cross-border online purchases or buys a TV in Budapest.

Paolo Martinello, President of the European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC) said:

"We much appreciated the opportunity to share our expectations for consumer issues with the State Secretary and high-level government officials. We hope that over the next six months the Hungarian government will give a boost to European consumer policy."

Dr. György Morvay, President of the National Association for Consumer Protection in Hungary, commented:

"Many of our national consumer protection laws are a direct offshoot to European legislation. Hungarian consumers have profited from EU action in issues ranging from air passenger rights to food safety. We count on our country's first EU Presidency to further strengthen protection of European and Hungarian consumers."

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