



The Consumer Voice in Europe

## Vote on June 16 on the proposed Directive on Trade Secrets

Letter sent to Legal Affairs Committee 15 June 2015

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***RE: Vote on June 16 on the proposed Directive on Trade Secrets***

Dear Member of the Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament,

I write on behalf of the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) to call on you to **vote for** a set of very important compromise amendments to the report by Ms. Constance Le Grip on the proposed Directive on Trade Secrets (2013/0402/COD).

**Making sure consumer protection is not endangered**

The proposed Directive includes a very broad definition of what is ought to be considered a trade secret and the scope of applicability of the legal remedies foreseen for companies to protect their knowledge and know-how. We are concerned that this vast scope would allow companies to challenge their legal obligations to publish information that is in the public interest, or their obligations to provide the necessary information required by public authorities. This could affect many important policy areas for consumers, and in particular food safety, environmental and safety policy, and health policy.

In order to ensure such risks are avoided, the Directive must be amended so that it is clear to the national legislators and judiciary that the measures contained in it cannot be applied when a company has an obligation to disclose information, including trade secrets, for reasons of public interest, or as a consequence of a legal obligation to provide the information to a regulatory authority.



**BEUC calls on you to adopt Compromise Amendments 1 and 4**

We remain at your disposal should you wish to receive further feedback.

Yours sincerely,

Guillermo Beltrà  
Head of the Legal and Economic Department