



The European Consumers' Organisation
Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs

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BEUC meeting with Michel Barnier, Commissioner in charge of Internal Market and Services

On Friday the 2nd of July, BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation, met with European Commissioner Michel Barnier to present the consumers' position on key dossiers within his portfolio.

In the context of the relaunch of the Single Market, Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC, underlined the importance of concentrating the Commission's policy making on consumers and citizens' needs and expectations. "The Single Market should serve European consumers and should be perceived in this way by the people."

One of BEUC's key demands put forward during the meeting was the introduction of a group action to deal with consumer damages on European level, a recommendation also made by Mario Monti in his report about a new strategy for the Internal Market.

BEUC and Commissioner Barnier also discussed intellectual property rights enforcement. BEUC reiterated its position that there should be a balance between the right of consumers to access content online and the right of copyright owners to fair remuneration for their work.

Furthermore, BEUC outlined consumer organisations' concerns about the situation in the financial services market. BEUC was pleased that Commissioner Barnier announced the publication of a legislative proposal on guarantee deposit schemes for early July, as well as a series of other initiatives which will be put forward by the Commission within the next six months. A proposal which is expected in November will for instance deal with the issue of responsible lending in the mortgage area (responsible lending means that credit products are appropriate for consumers' needs and are tailored to their ability to repay).