

**Contact: John Phelan: +32 (0)2 789 24 01**  
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## **Council pulls handbrake on Consumer Rights Directive**

The European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC) is disappointed that after two years of intense negotiations, the proposed Consumer Rights Directive will be unexpectedly reduced on December 20<sup>th</sup> by a preliminary decision of the Council of Ministers in the last days of its Belgian presidency.

The Directive, which is the most significant review of European consumer protection in many years, will have a huge number of its provisions deleted and the remainder changed to urge a full harmonisation of consumer rights across the EU. Today's transformed proposal is a rushed deal and will do little to improve consumer protection in the EU, in some cases could reduce national protections and would prohibit member states from enacting further legislation in future.

Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC said:

"If the EU seeks a single market for Europeans, a modern system of consumer rights should be its basis, thereby empowering consumers. Today is a missed opportunity. Legislators negotiated lengthily to give this law good value, but what has been put today before the Council represents a significant U-turn. The European Parliament has its say next month and we hope their approach is closer to the needs of European consumers."

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