



The European Consumers' Organisation

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

PRESS RELEASE

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BEUC on International Consumers' Day: "Pressing need" for collective redress

As the EU consultation on collective redress soon concludes, Director General of the European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC) Monique Goyens commented:

"An EU collective redress system is the most pressing, missing tool for Europe's 500 million consumers to have their rights enforced. The Single Market will be an incomplete one as long as an EU model for collective legal actions does not exist for when people suffer loss or harm. It allows Europeans to enforce their rights at home or across borders as a group. Judicial collective redress currently operates nationally in 14 EU Member States, so whether it's for cancelled flights, defective products or negligent financial advice, an extension of this successful tool to all EU countries and for cross-border cases would be practical, efficient and long overdue. In its absence, many victims remain without compensation and some companies register incredible sums of illegal profit¹."

Collective redress: A top priority for the Single Market

"Commissioners meet this week to discuss the Single Market Act, which makes an inexplicably hesitant reference to collective redress. BEUC however expects it to be a top priority. Otherwise, the Single Market remains a fine sports car, with a spluttering engine.

There have been significant consumer law advances over the decades, but these rights remain on paper if means are not granted to consumers to effectively, cheaply and practically enforce them."

On 15 March, International Consumers' Day, BEUC launches a campaign across Europe via its national organisations to give European consumers the opportunity to voice their expectations on access to justice to policymakers.

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¹ In EU antitrust law alone, unrecovered damages are estimated to be over €20 billion per year:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/554&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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