

Ref.: BEUC-X-2023-026/MGO/cm

9 March 2023

Subject: Consumers support the draft Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS)

Dear Commissioner McGuinness,

I am writing on behalf of BEUC, The European Consumer Organisation, concerning the draft Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) submitted by the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) to the European Commission in November 2022.

We are aware that this initiative has become the subject of intense lobbying efforts with the aim of cutting and weakening the draft standards. I would therefore like to express BEUC's strong support for the overall project of standardising corporate sustainability reporting, as laid down in the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, and for the draft ESRS, in particular. They represent a major advance over the status quo in corporate sustainability reporting in the EU, as well as a good, European compromise between different stakeholder interests that should not be reopened.

From the point of view of consumers and retail investors, reliable and comparable sustainability disclosures that cover the entire range of ESG topics, from climate change and pollution to workers' rights and good corporate governance, are crucially important to enable them to make product purchases or investment decisions in line with their values.

By empowering consumers to make informed choices, ESRS will also make an important contribution to the Union's climate and sustainability goals. Industry and civil society representatives reached a balanced compromise that substantially reduced the number of disclosures compared to the EFRAG exposure drafts of April 2022. This was adopted by the Sustainability Reporting Board without any votes against.

The process also benefitted from feedback from observers from the Commission and various European Supervisory Authorities, a public consultation and numerous stakeholder outreach events. The proposed draft standards therefore contain many good elements and represent a big advance for corporate sustainability reporting in the EU.

We would like to thank you again for your commitment to delivering EU policies to consumers on the ground and we trust that our contribution to the preparation of the standards has been of help to that end.

In case you or your services have any questions or remarks, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Goyens
Director General