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Juncker Commission appointments: Consumer affairs role critical

Jean-Claude Juncker, European Commission president-elect, is finalising the next line-up of Commissioners and designating their portfolios.

Commissioners will be appointed, one from each of the EU's 28 Member States, to lead a policy area – from financial services to foreign affairs, trade to transport, energy to environment, etc.

A consumer policy Commissioner will be central to whether the next 5 years is a success for EU politics.

BEUC has written to Mr. Juncker and published a [Manifesto](#) listing the challenges as they take office on November 1.

Monique Goyens, Director General of The European Consumer Organisation commented:

“Consumer policy is the political umbilical cord between the EU and citizens. Europe can't remind itself of this often enough. The issues cross so many sectors, so a resolute Commissioner with clear vision is indispensable.

“The EU will become an ever more important hub of law making. Yet, it still grapples with the age-old image problem of being perceived as distant. What is not seen often enough is that it generates laws which regularly affect roughly 500 million people. The range is huge. From how banks can treat clients, the safety of our food, trade with global partners, dangerous products, privacy in the internet era to the future of energy supply.

“There have been many enduring achievements over the years, such as the move away from leaded petrol, regulating exorbitant roaming costs, streamlining cross-border banking payments and strict rules on genetically modified foods. But with EU-US trade deal negotiations ongoing and the rising cost of living, many urgent tasks will be on Commissioners' 'to-do' list from day 1.

“Shepherding consumer legislation in particular through the EU law making process over the next 5 years is a marquee position. So we want a Commissioner who has the determination, clout and experience necessary to champion consumers, and be seen to do so. This is all the more vital given the powerful business lobbying which makes striking fair balances increasingly complex. We are counting on governments to avidly pursue this valuable post as the appointment process closes.”

The European Consumer Organisation's 2014 Manifesto
for EU politicians is [here](#).

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