

The Consumer Voice in Europe

Ref.: BEUC-X-2017-114

25 October 2017

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Tomorrow Thursday, you will be called to vote in Plenary on the negotiation mandate regarding the Regulation on Privacy and Electronic Communications (e-Privacy Regulation).

The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) asks you to support the negotiation mandate adopted in the Civil Liberties Committee (LIBE). The LIBE report is a **very necessary** and **positive step forward** to ensure consumers can use online services without having to sacrifice their privacy, to enhance consumer trust in the Digital Single Market and to incentivise innovation in privacy friendly business models.

A recent [Eurobarometer](#) shows that European consumers clearly want strong safeguards to protect their privacy online:

- 92% want the confidentiality of their communications to be guaranteed.
- 71% say it is unacceptable for companies to share information about them without their permission, even if it helps companies provide new services they may like.
- 74% consider unacceptable to pay in order not to be monitored when using a website and 64% that it is unacceptable to have their online activities monitored in exchange for unrestricted access to a website.
- 82% underline the importance of ensuring that tools for monitoring their online activities (such as cookies) can only be used with their permission.
- 89% agree that the default setting of their browser should stop their information from being shared.

The text adopted in the LIBE Committee would represent an important milestone and put Europe at the forefront of creating **fair rules for the future of the internet**. It would drive innovation towards outcomes that deliver benefits to society as a whole, ensuring that our fundamental right to privacy is not compromised by short-term business interests.

We encourage you to take the above into consideration and plead that you **support the negotiation mandate**.

You can find more information about our position and the importance of this Regulation for consumers in our [factsheet](#), as well as in this [blog post](#) and our [infographic on online tracking](#).

We remain at your disposal for any questions you might have.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Goyens
Director General