

Subject: Rebuilding Europe after COVID-19: consumer recommendations to make the European Green Deal a success

Dear Executive Vice-President Timmermans,

While the COVID-19 pandemic is hitting European countries hard, the absolute priority is to save lives, support the healthcare system and contain the virus. Another parallel priority is to prevent the collapse of our economic system, by addressing the immediate needs of the industries, including SMEs, that are most hit by the pandemic and its consequences.

When the worst of the health crisis is behind us, we will need to focus on rebuilding our economy. It is important that this happens while being mindful of another crisis affecting people and the planet: the climate crisis. Failing this, we risk 'solving' the imminent economic recession by sacrificing our preparatory plans for the many new shocks the climate crisis is going to bring.

This is the reason why **we are convinced that the European Green Deal action plan, published last December, is now more important than ever.** To keep fighting climate change and preserving our environment, the EU must make its green ambitions a reality. The implementation of the initiatives listed in the European Green Deal should therefore become guiding principles in steering the recovery of the European economy.

We are therefore calling upon the European Commission to stick to the ambitious strategy described in the European Green Deal. The upcoming months will be more critical than ever in making sure we put our societies on a more sustainable pathway. Consumer groups are committed to play an active role in supporting this agenda.

In particular, it will be important to resist calls from certain stakeholders who are already requesting "adjustments" or postponements of EU rules because of the crisis. By no means should we allow any move to undermine the enforcement of existing EU legislation or delay and/or water down the introduction of new climate and environmental legislation.

In the attached position paper, you will find BEUC's recommendations to make the European Green Deal a success. In this document, we list the principles which we think are crucial to ensure we embark on this urgently needed system change. We also rate in red, amber and green the European Green Deal's measures which impact on consumers from housing and finance, to mobility, food and more.

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We look forward to contributing to this systemic change and to making sure that the EU re-orientates towards being both a more sustainable and global economy.

We would be happy to discuss these issues with you during a bilateral meeting once the most urgent concerns responses to this expectedly long-lasting health crises have been addressed.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Goyens
Director General

Encl: Consumers at the centre of the drive to sustainability – BEUC’s view on the European Green Deal.

C/c: Mr Diederik Samsom, Head of Cabinet; Ms Ditte Juul-Joergensen, Director-General; Mr Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director-General; Mr Mauro Petriccione, Director-General; Mr Nils Behrndt, Director; Mr Jan Panek, Head of Unit; Mr Alexandre Paquot, Head of Unit