

Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1998/2233(COS)	Procedure completed
Consumer policy: action plan 1999-2001		
Subject 4.60 Consumers' protection in general		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		05/01/1999
		PSE WHITEHEAD Phillip	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		21/01/1999
		PPE AÑOVEROS TRIAS DE BES Julio	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Culture	2195	28/06/1999
	Consumers	2171	13/04/1999

Key events			
01/12/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0696	Summary
28/01/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/04/1999	Debate in Council	2171	
20/04/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
20/04/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0208/1999	
04/05/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0370/1999	Summary
04/05/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/10/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/2233(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/10607

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0696	01/12/1998	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0208/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0006	20/04/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0370/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0023-0084	04/05/1999	EP	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0550/1999 OJ C 209 22.07.1999, p. 0001	26/05/1999	ESC	
Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0181/1999 OJ C 057 29.02.2000, p. 0074	18/11/1999	CofR	
Follow-up document	COM(2001)0486	23/08/2001	EC	Summary

Consumer policy: action plan 1999-2001

PURPOSE : Commission Communication concerning the Consumer Policy Action Plan 1999-2001. CONTENT : The objective is to support activities designed to help protect the health, safety and economic interests of consumers and to promote their right to information and education and to join forces in order to protect their interests and guarantee a high level of protection for consumers. The proposed action plan would have a budget of 112.5 million euros and will cover actions in the following four areas : - Consumer health and safety (product safety and health issues); - Protecting the economic interests of consumers as regards products and services; - Educating and informing consumers; and - Promotion and representation of consumers' interests.?

Consumer policy: action plan 1999-2001

The Committee has adopted the report by Mr Phillip WHITEHEAD (PES, UK) containing a resolution on a commission communication setting out an action plan for consumer policy for the three years 1999 to 2001; ?

Consumer policy: action plan 1999-2001

Without debate, the European Parliament adopted the resolution by Phillip Whitehead (PSE,UK) on the communication from the Commission on a Consumer Policy Action Plan 1999-2001. The report welcomes the proposed action plan for the next three years and calls on the Commission to report regularly to the Parliament on its implementation. The Parliament calls on the EU institutions to implement the Treaty obligation for a high level of consumer protection as a necessary condition of future, new or amended directives and requests the Commission to develop a systematic methodology of appraisal to meet this requirement. The Commission is called on, in particular, to: - engage in serious negotiations with the US aimed at establishing a common GMO-free and organic food line; - put up the strongest possible defence of the interests of European Union consumers in any pending or future disputes in the WTO; - outline a clear strategy for future negotiations within the WTO in order to guarantee the effectiveness of EU consumer policy vis-à-vis WTO rules; - propose a global, horizontal approach to the protection of minors from potentially dangerous content (excessive violence, pornography) and to include this in its action plan; - take greater pains to ensure that the directives are transposed into national law by the Member States; - ensure that the applicant states fully adopt and enforce EU consumer protection legislation. The Parliament welcomes the Commission's intention to improve consumer representation at all levels from its present unsatisfactory composition and asks the Commission to put in place measures to improve the systematic integration of consumer representatives into a transparent and open decision-making process, in particular in the areas of telecommunications, the information society, food, financial services and transport. The report calls for effective integration of the Commission's own Consumer Committee along with national consumer organisations and regulatory agencies in enforcing EU legislation. In order to ensure a high level of health and safety for EU consumers, the Parliament calls on the Commission to: - continue to take the utmost heed of the serious consequences of the BSE crisis for food safety and consumer health; - complete its review of existing legislation on labelling; - establish a Product Safety Network as part of the review of the General Product Safety Directive (92/59/EEC); - take action concerning the safety of child-care articles; - take action in removing phthalates from PVC toys intended for babies and young children; - integrate consumer concerns

in CAP reform; - develop a multi-disciplinary approach to tackling antibiotic-resistance (animal feedingstuffs); - ensure that countries with the laxest standards do not determine the outcome of the WTO negotiations; - submit a fundamental revision of the directive on the freedom of access to information on the environment, thereby ensuring improved access to information on damage to the environment and its effects on consumers. With regard to full respect for the economic interests of EU consumers, the Parliament deplores the excessive conversion charges that banks are enforcing on consumers and calls on the Commission to undertake regular monitoring of the situation and to take action where necessary. It calls on the Commission to encourage specific indication of high quality standards, particularly in the craft industry sector (brand marks, labels and certificates, etc.). The report proposes that consideration be given to the idea of a standard model bill which could briefly indicate the bodies responsible for solving cross-border disputes as well as certain aspects of payment. Finally, it calls on the Commission to lay down mandatory regulations on the liability of service providers which would apply only to certain services (installation and building services, medical services and information technology services).?