## Basic information

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

## Key players

### European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection | WHITEHEAD Phillip (PSE) | 05/01/1999 |

| 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 | AÑOVEROS TRIAS DE BES Julio (PPE) | 21/01/1999 |

### Council of the European Union

| Council configuration | Meetings | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Consumers | 2171 | 1999-04-13 |
| Culture | 2195 | 1999-06-28 |

## Key events

| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | | |
| 20/04/1999 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 20/04/1999 | Committee report tabled for plenary | A4-0208/1999 | |
| 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 148 |
| **Stage reached in procedure** | Procedure completed |
| **Committee dossier** | ENVI/4/10607 |

Documentation gateway

**European Parliament**

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | | A4-0208/1999<br>OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0006 | 20/04/1999 | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T4-0370/1999<br>OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0023-0084 | 04/05/1999 | Summary |

**European Commission**

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Non-legislative basic document | COM(1998)0696 | 01/12/1998 | Summary |
| Follow-up document | COM(2001)0486 | 23/08/2001 | Summary |

**Other institutions and bodies**

| Institution/body | Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EESC | Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report | CES0550/1999<br>OJ C 209 22.07.1999, p. 0001 | 26/05/1999 | |
| CofR | Committee of the Regions: opinion | CDR0181/1999<br>OJ C 057 29.02.2000, p. 0074 | 18/11/1999 | |

# Consumer policy: action plan 1999-2001

1998/2233(COS) - 01/12/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

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

1998/2233(COS) - 23/08/2001

This Interim Report provides an overview of the state of implementation within each of the broad policy domains identified in the Action Plan. The last two years have seen many changes, political, organisational and operational, affecting the development of consumer policy at the level of the European Community. However, as can be seen from this Interim Report, these changes have generally not had a detrimental effect on the implementation of the Action Plan. Indeed, the overall situation shows not only that progress has been made in the traditional areas of consumer policy, but that the Commission has also been active in safeguarding consumers' interests in new areas such as the Internet in general and electronic commerce in particular. In broad terms, the last few years have certainly been years of transition, with consumer policy moving to centre stage. The increased political priority that is being given to consumer affairs at the European level does, however, mean that greater public attention will be focussed on the policy development process. Attention should, therefore, be increasingly turned to consolidating the recent upgrading of EC consumer policy. Looking forward to the next Action Plan, this would imply that the Commission's central objective should be to ensure that future proposals for consumer policy and related activities are built on a strong foundation, flow from a coherent strategic framework, benefit from a wide-ranging and transparent consultation process, and are subject to a rigorous system of monitoring and impact assessment.

# Consumer policy: action plan 1999-2001

1998/2233(COS) - 04/05/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

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 amied 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 inplace 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 conversioncharges 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 laibility of service providers which would apply only to certain services (installation and building services, medical services and information technology services).