



The European Consumers' Organisation

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE
PRESS RELEASE

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Copenhagen: Consumers must be given the tools to act on climate change

BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation, will join a Consumers International (CI) delegation led by Rasmus Kjeldahl of the Danish Consumer Council, Forbrugerrådet, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference beginning on Monday 7th December 2009, with a view to showing decision-makers that consumers are concerned about climate change and indeed must be part of the decision making process.

A Eurobarometer survey published by the European Commission on 2nd December 2009 shows that almost two-thirds of Europeans consider climate change as a very serious problem whilst 72% consider not enough is done to fight climate change. In the light of these figures, BEUC calls for decision-makers to give consumers the tools that will help them make a difference for the planet.

Monique Goyens, BEUC Director General, commented:

"We are eager to have the European consumers' voice heard at COP 15. It is urgent that decision-makers realise that consumers are ready for more sustainable choices and to make necessary behavioural changes. As discrepancies still exist between consumers' thoughts on what should be done to tackle climate change and their actual behaviour, it is essential that proactive policies are undertaken to ensure that consumers are incentivised into the most sustainable patterns of consumption.

"BEUC will be in Copenhagen to raise decision-makers' awareness that concrete and ambitious measures must be taken in the field of transport, housing and food to reach emissions' reduction targets. The involvement of industry and retailers is also a key step in the fight against climate change particularly when it comes to actions for eco-friendly product standards.

"However, the most challenging phase for BEUC will undoubtedly be the post-Copenhagen period where we will have to make sure the issues raised at the conference are being acted upon by decision-makers."

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Notes to the Editors:

The Eurobarometer "Europeans' attitudes towards climate change" is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_322_en.pdf

For a summary of the Eurobarometer, please see the following press release:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1858&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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