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As the COP15 climate change summit in Copenhagen draws to a close, consumers are eager to act

Representing more than 220 consumer organisations from 115 countries, CI took the message to Copenhagen that many consumers want to act on climate change, but feel unable to do so because of government inaction and a lack of genuine green alternatives from business. Equally, consumers – especially in the developing world are adversely affected by climate change and need to be considered in relation to adaptation measures.

Consumers need to be central in the roadmap towards climate sustainability. We needed outcomes of COP15 capable of encouraging, enabling and inspiring consumer action so consumers can consume in a more sustainable way. That's not the situation now– and there is a great risk of huge consumer detriment from current inaction.

If we are to mitigate climate change consumers should be closely involved in implementation. We do not need to wait for COP16. It's time to move on.

At COP15 the focus has been on setting a limit on temperature increase by controlling greenhouse gas emissions. It is now of vital importance that focus gradually includes implementation strategies.

The world's climate is not going to be saved by papers, only through action. It's time to create the conditions under which individual and collective consumer actions can contribute to a sustainable future.

We therefore urge world and national leaders to ensure that consumers and their organisations are invited as partners in fighting climate change.

Rasmus Kjeldahl, Head of Delegation for Consumers International in Copenhagen, said:

Consumers across the world are ready to take action against climate change. We will continue to work across the world, helping consumers to make the changes in lifestyles needed to combat climate change. We call for the support of world leaders.

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