



**Federacja
Konsumentów**

POLISH CONSUMER FEDERATION

FINANSING OF CONSUMER ORGANISATION: MEANS OF FINANSING

**Małgorzata Niepokulczycka
President
Polish Consumer Federation**



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CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND OF 2 APRIL 1997



Article 76:

„Public authorities protect consumers, users and tenants from any actions threatening their health, privacy and safety as well as unfair marketing practices. The law act determines the scope of this protection”.

POLISH CONSUMER FEDERATION



**non-governmental, independent
organisation**

**main aim: protection of an individual
consumer in Poland**

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- **FEDERATION has been registered on July the 7th, 1981, as an initiative of 40 persons (journalists, lawyers, scientists, etc.)**
 - **FEDERATION is the oldest continuously operating consumer organisation in Central and Eastern Europe**
 - **FEDERATION is still the only non-government national organisation in Poland protecting an individual consumer**

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- **Nearly 50 local branches of the FEDERATION all over Poland runs educational, informational activities, organising conferences, seminars, giving legal advise**
 - **Since June the 1st 2004 FEDERATION has a status of a Public Benefit Organisation**
 - **POLISH CONSUMER FEDERATION is a member of Consumers International and of The European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC)**



OUR ACTIVITIES

- Free legal ADVISING
- Direct INTERVENTIONS
AND MEDIATIONS with business
- REPRESENTING CONSUMERS in the COURTS
of consumer arbitration and of law
- Consumer EDUCATION



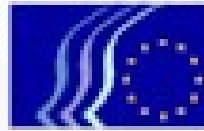
Annually, we help to solve about 135 000 consumer problems of various kinds.

CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation



European Economic and Social Committee



European Consumer Consulting Group in Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General (SANCO)



The European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC)



Consumers International



Participation in Working Group in Corporate Social Responsibility by ISO



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- **Presently, being an EU Member and eager to benefit from the Common Market, we are especially interested in legal solutions that are being taken on the EU level.**
 - **We support the solutions that lead the Common Market to be fully operational, and to strengthen the consumer's position on it.**
 - **Monitoring of the proceedings on the Common Market is also important. We see the key role of the European Parliament in this issue.**





The shortage of financial support characterises, to a lesser or a high degree, all consumer organisations.

Consumer organisations have limited room for manoeuvre as far as search of means of financing is concerned.

Sources of financing of consumer organisations:

- **membership fees**
- **business activity**
- **private means**
- **EU means**
- **public means**



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- **More than 50% of consumer organisations have annual income less than 100 000 USD**

 - **On average, in a consumer organisation work:**
 - **Less than 5 employees full time,**
 - **Less than 3 employees part time,**
 - **Less than 2 paid volunteers,**
 - **Less than 60 not paid volunteers.**

**Drastic budgetary cuts, which have must
been made by DG SANCO, bode ill for
consumer issues, especially in the New
Member States.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION