

The Consumer Voice in Europe

Public hearing Added benefits of the EU on environment, public health & food safety

The consumer perspective

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General remarks

- EU provides for strong safety nets for consumers in product safety, food safety, pharmaceuticals, chemical safety, sustainable production and consumption
- Lack of public awareness of the EU sources of the overall framework for health and safety
- Need for better communication on EU sources of our current system





Main overall achievements



- Strong regulatory framework
- Environmental policy is integral part of all other policies
- Precautionary principle
- Farm to fork approach
- Cooperation between authorities



Joint research (H 2020)





On environment/safety – the consumer perspective:



- EU is leader on renewables and energy efficiency 1st, eg Ecodesign requirements
- EU is leader on climate change
- Lower car emissions



- Workstreams on resource efficiency and circular economy
- REACH: the consumer's right to know!



On public health – the consumer perspective

- Faster approval of medicines
- More efficient pharmacovigilance
- More transparency on clinical trials
- Reimbursement of cross-border health-care





On food safety – the consumer perspective



- A more efficient alert system
- Stronger scientific cooperation between MS within EFSA
- Better food controls
- Farm to fork approach
- More weight in international fora



Common challenges identified (non –exhaustive)

 Globalisation of markets and trend by some policy makers and stakeholders to consider consumer protection measures as barriers to trade

Push for deregulation and reduction of costs for industry: regulation boosts innovation and prevents disruptive scandals – therefore is more sustainable

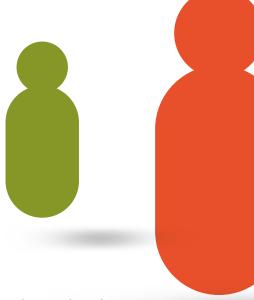


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