



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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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

# Thanks for your trust and attention

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