

**Question for written answer E-002363/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Idoia Villanueva Ruiz** (The Left)

Subject: Independent European consumer organisations free from conflicts of interest

Some European consumer organisations may be abusing their status as lobbying groups by using a dual, interlinked corporate structure formed of a business and a not-for-profit association.

The associations do business through commercial subsidiaries and offer services to consumers and companies, including publishing, real estate and financial intermediation, investment fund and quality label services. They advertise goods and services and receive funding from businesses for their work, which affects their independence.

Despite their commercial interests, they are European consumer representation organisations and are part of BEUC.

In view of the above:

1. What control measures does the Commission have in place to guarantee consumer associations' independence and ensure their work does not generate conflicts of interest and negatively affect consumers?
2. Has the Commission considered introducing a regulation and binding ethical standards so that consumer associations are not funded by businesses and cannot advertise goods and services commercially, which interferes with their independence?

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