

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0076/09/rev.1
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure
by Arlene McCarthy, on behalf of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection
to the Commission

Subject: Proposal for a Directive on Consumer Rights

The IMCO Committee supports the objectives of the proposal for a Directive on Consumer Rights (COM(2008)0614), namely to contribute to the better functioning of the internal market by enhancing consumer confidence and reducing obstacles to cross-border trade. As stated in the European Parliament resolution of 6 September 2007 (P6_TA(2007)0383¹), the Committee welcomes the goal of modernising, simplifying and improving the regulatory regime for consumers and businesses in the internal market.

The Committee does however recognise the concerns expressed by stakeholders regarding the practical implications of the current proposal. The Committee believes it is important to fully address these concerns and asks the European Commission:

1. Will the Commission undertake to work with the Member States on the practical effects of the proposal at national level?
2. Can the Commission clarify the interaction between the harmonised rules in the proposal and elements of national general contract law which apply to consumers (such as remedies including the right to reject faulty goods in the UK and the latent defect guarantee rules in France or in Belgium)?
3. Could the Commission clarify the interplay of the draft proposal with the draft CFR and with existing Community legislation, in particular the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive, e-commerce Directive, Services Directive and the Rome I Regulation?
4. Will the Commission undertake further work on the impact assessment to clearly demonstrate the benefits and costs of this proposal and its alternatives, including in light of the above work?
5. Will the Commission inform the Parliament of steps the Commission will take to support further dialogue between consumer and business organisations regarding this proposal?

Tabled: 27.04.2009

Forwarded: 29.04.2009

Deadline for reply: 06.05.2009

¹ OJ C 187 E, 24.7.2008, p. 231.