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## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

### **Consumer rights: business organisations call for European Parliament plenary to preserve full harmonisation**

**In view of the upcoming plenary vote on the Consumer Rights Directive, BUSINESSEUROPE, EUROCHAMBRES and UEAPME called on the European Parliament to focus efforts on full harmonisation and to refrain from adopting any minimum harmonisation provisions. In a joint letter to Members of the European Parliament, the three business organisations expressed their concerns on a number of changes introduced by the Parliament's Internal Market & Consumer Protection and Legal Affairs Committees. These modifications risk jeopardising the original intentions of the European Commission, warned the three.**

Full harmonisation, as proposed by the Commission, is the most effective way to address the legal uncertainty that currently prevails in relation to cross-border business-consumer transactions.

Business organisations also backed the deletion of chapters 4 (sales contracts and remedies) and 5 (unfair contractual terms) from the directive, as suggested by the Council, since these chapters now contradict the initial purpose of reducing legal fragmentation in the internal market.

Moreover, they rejected the addition of information requirements for on-premises contracts and called for the exclusion of solicited visits for off-premises contracts from the scope of the text, which would create more burdens and costs for businesses and consumers than benefits.

\*\*\* ENDS \*\*\*

The joint letter is available at the following link:

[http://www.ueapme.com/IMG/pdf/Businesses\\_position\\_on\\_CRD\\_Feb\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ueapme.com/IMG/pdf/Businesses_position_on_CRD_Feb_2011.pdf)

**BUSINESSEUROPE** represents small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE Members are 40 central industrial and employers' federations from 34 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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**EUROCHAMBRES**, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, represents over 20 million enterprises in Europe – 93% of which are SMEs – through members in 45 countries and a European network of 2000 regional and local Chambers.

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**UEAPME** is the employers' organisation representing exclusively crafts, trades and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 85 member organisations covering over 12 million enterprises with 55 million employees. UEAPME is a European Social Partner.

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