

EUROPE IN ACTION FOR HEALTHIER, SAFER, MORE CONFIDENT CITIZENS





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FOR HEALTHIER,
SAFER, MORE
CONFIDENT CITIZENS

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INTRODUCTION

Improving the lives of European citizens

The last decade has seen major progress in the field of health and consumers protection: a complete overhaul of the European food safety system; the emergence of consumer policy as a real force to give consumers a better deal; measures to fight unhealthy lifestyles and major diseases.

All this and much, much more to leave us better placed to meet the challenges of the future.

Please join us as we take a look at European action for healthier, safer, more confident citizens ...





Protecting European Consumers

Left to its own devices, the relationship between consumers and business is far from equal.

We need to stand up for consumers to ensure they get a fair deal in a competitive market place.

Find out how ...





CONSUMER AFFAIRS



Putting an end to unfair commercial practices

A few rotten apples can spoil the whole barrel.

Europe clamps down on rogue traders to protect both consumers and honest businesses.



The Europa Diary – how to be a consumer and a citizen

Good habits are more easily acquired at an early age.

The Europa Diary is packed full of useful information aimed at teenagers.



“Consumer policy is about consumer rights”

Meglana Kuneva,
Commissioner for Consumer Affairs

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Europe wants well-informed consumers

Knowledge is power. Consumers need to know their rights and not be afraid to assert them.



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CONSUMER AFFAIRS



Keeping European consumers safe – RAPEX

Europe benefits from a world-class rapid alert system to keep dangerous products off the shelves in our shops.



“What are the next steps for consumer policy?”

Meglana Kuneva,
Commissioner for Consumer Affairs





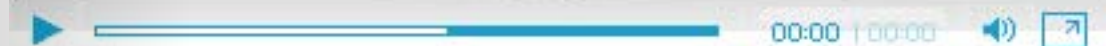
Healthcare without barriers

Europe puts patients first. We seek a more flexible system under which patients can obtain healthcare in another Member State and be properly reimbursed.



Androulla Vassiliou,
Commissioner for Health

“ Access to healthcare in
another European country ”

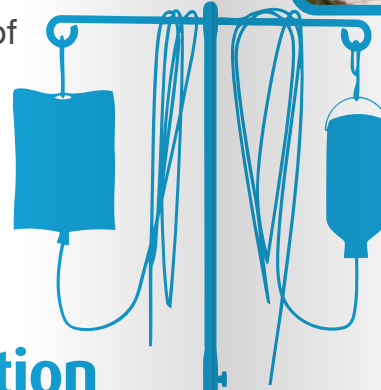




Patient Safety

Hospitals can be dangerous places.

Europe acts to drive down the number of cases where patients are inadvertently harmed whilst receiving healthcare.



Flu pandemic – EU gets ready for a global response

Europe plays a key role in the preparation for and the fight against pandemic influenza.

Proportionate measures and sound advice lead to better preparedness, better health protection and the avoidance of panic.

“Europe is better prepared to meet these challenges than ever before”

Androulla Vassiliou,
Commissioner for Health



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For a smoke-free Europe

Tobacco continues to claim thousands of lives each and every year.

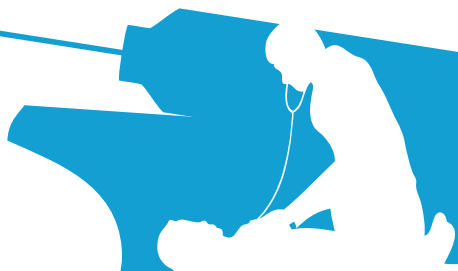
Europe fights towards the ultimate goal of making smoking a thing of the past.



Improving organ donation and transplantation in Europe

There is an EU-wide shortage of available organs for transplants.

We aim to add a European dimension to matching organs with patients, thereby saving many lives.





FOOD CHAIN

From farm to fork – safe food for European consumers

A root and branch reform of the European food safety system ensures that EU citizens have the safest food supply in the world.

Safety is addressed at every production step throughout the food-chain.



Paola Testori Coggi,
Deputy Director General for
Health and Consumers

“ We have the safest food in the world ”



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FOOD CHAIN

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Banning misleading labels in Europe

Consumers need to be able to rely on the information given on food packaging.

European rules ban false or misleading claims in relation to the health and nutritional properties of food.



Better information for better eating

We need to know the nutritional content of what we eat in order to achieve our dietary goals.

Regular, clear and easily understandable information is the key enabling healthier eating habits.



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FOOD CHAIN



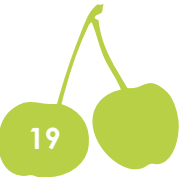
RASFF: Keeping an eye on your food

The sheer size and diversity of our food supply means that problems will inevitably arise from time to time.

The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed informs Member States of potential problems enabling the immediate withdrawal of contaminated or suspect foods from the market.

“Our alert system is fast and efficient”

Paola Testori Coggi,
Deputy Director General for
Health and Consumers



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Better training for safer food

Having the best food safety laws in the world is not enough in itself.

The Better Training for Safer Food initiative provides training for inspection staff in the Member States on EU food safety rules, and also for third countries so they can more easily meet EU standards for food exported to the EU.

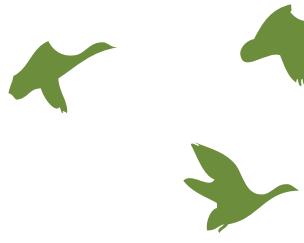


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EU pet passport and the fight against rabies

Pet passports enable citizens to travel within the European Union with their pets without posing a risk of spreading disease, in particular rabies which, thanks to strict EU measures, is close to being eradicated throughout the EU.





ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE



Diseases don't respect borders – if in doubt, leave it out

If you are thinking of bringing food into the EU from third countries, think again!

You could be posing a serious health risk.



Animal Health: Prevention is better than cure

Europe's Animal Health Strategy takes a more proactive rather than reactive approach to combating animal diseases.

Find out more ...

Avian flu – prevention bears fruit

Swift and effective animal health measures prevented avian influenza from taking hold in the European Union.



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COOPERATIVE METHODS

Action against cancer

Cancer, directly or indirectly, touches the lives of each and every one of us.

The new European Partnership for Action Against Cancer will bring together a wide variety of stakeholder groups with an interest in fighting cancer with a view to forging common links thus coordinating and strengthening European action to fight this disease.



Robert Madelin,
Director General for Health
and Consumers

“ I believe that we can only succeed, when we work with all the other actors ”



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COOPERATIVE METHODS



Europe acts against obesity

Overweight and obesity, particularly amongst children, is one of the most pressing emerging health issues.

Left unchecked the future consequences could be catastrophic not only for individuals but also for entire societies.

Find out what Europe is doing to combat this threat ...

EU to step up prevention of alcohol-related harm

Alcohol, in moderation, can be a source of pleasure for many people. However, it can also be nightmare for those who abuse it or become addicted.

Alcohol wrecks many lives – individual users and their families.

Find out how the European Alcohol Forum seeks to combat this problem ...



Europe joins forces on mental health

One in four of us will suffer from some form of mental illness at sometime in our life. Yet mental illness is still often sidelined rather than being considered as a mainstream health issue.

Europe seeks to promote good mental health and remove the stigma that surrounds it.

Find out more ...



Robert Madelin,
Director General for Health
and Consumers

“ The problems facing Europe are too complicated for public authorities to solve on their own ”

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http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm

