



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 28.04.2017
C(2017) 2534 final*

*Ms Laura BOLDRINI
President of the Camera dei Deputati
Piazza Montecitorio
IT – 00100 ROMA*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws {COM(2016) 283 final}.

The Commission appreciates the overall support expressed by the Camera dei Deputati for cross-border enforcement and for a revised Regulation.

As required by Article 114, paragraph 3 of the the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the proposal is based on a high level of consumer protection and it takes into account new developments in consumer markets such as the digitalisation and globalisation of business practices. It should contribute substantially to the ambition of unleashing the potential of the Digital Single Market, which is a priority for the Union's economic growth.

The cross-border enforcement of consumer laws has to become more agile, efficient, and able to respond to the challenges of digital markets that know no national borders. The rate of compliance with the rules is low: estimates of the Commission show that 37% of traders in key online consumer markets do not respect Union consumer laws, generating a detriment of EUR 770 million per year for consumers¹.

This proposal ensures that the Commission can assist Member States' authorities within an efficient Union level procedure to fulfil their obligation under Article 291(1) TFEU to correctly implement Union law and address serious breaches of this law that span many countries. Ensuring that facts and possible violations of Union legislation are swiftly brought to the attention of the competent authorities in each Member State concerned in no way

¹ According to the Impact Assessment accompanying the proposal, SWD(2016) 164 final, 25.5.2016, http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumer_rights/unfair-trade/docs/cpc-revision-proposal-impact-assessment_en.pdf.

affects the independence of the national authorities, and the decision on whether or not a practice constitutes an infringement remains fully in their hands. Even in the case of Member States with a strong enforcement tradition, consumers will still need to be protected through strong enforcement in the other Member States when the transaction is cross border, be that physical or online.

The Commission hopes that these comments address the issues raised by the Camera dei Deputati and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Andrus Ansip
Vice-President*