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JUST REPORTS; JUST DIRECTOR GENERAL

Subject: SGD Amendment/Right to Repair - Meeting with BEUC - Short Report

Dear all

Please see the short report as regards a recent meeting with BEUC about their possible ideas how to amend the SGD. BEUC seems to follow a strategy to package a number of requests increasing the

consumer protection level, which they had already suggested previously for the SGD, under a sustainability narrative.

We passed the message that, in the face of likely opposition from industry, overloading the boat may

sink it and the political chances for adoption of possible initiatives would be increased if BEUC and COM

have a common core of objectives.

[REDACTED]

On 10/06/2021 JUST A2 and E1 ([REDACTED]) met with

BEUC ([REDACTED]) order to discuss their forthcoming position paper on amendments to the Sales of Goods Directive and the right to repair.

After JUST A2 presentation of potential questions discussed for an SGD amendment and a right to

repair, BEUC informed about the list of requests in its upcoming position paper:

- Joint liability seller-producer for consumer remedies
- Longer legal guarantee periods for durable goods (as defined under product-specific legislation)
- Longer burden of proof period
- A label on guaranteed lifespan
- Transfer of the legal guarantee between consumers
- Restarting the legal guarantee after repair
- Fixed time limits on traders to conduct the repair
- Offering a replacement product during repair.

They also mentioned that they would be against a mandatory priority for repair compared to replacement.

JUST A2 recalled that a number of the BEUC ideas have already been discussed in the past but did not

find a majority in the Council. On the contrary, some of the topics concerned were close to a breaking point in the SGD negotiation.

It pointed out that targeted amendments of the SGD substantively contributing to sustainability may have a political window of opportunity while doing more than and combining it with additional

consumer protection requests may defeat the purpose, given that the SGD starts applying only in

January 2022. JUST A2 underlined the importance of the COM and BEUC pursuing realistic common

objectives in order to achieve the best possible results in the future negotiation process.