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COUNCIL

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Council

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE RENEWAL OF
THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER POLICY**

(adopted by the Council at its 938th Session on 10 December 1998 [C/M(98)24/PROV])

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THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation;

Having regard to the Resolution of the Council of 12th November 1969 establishing a Committee on Consumer Policy [C(69)143];

Having regard to the Resolutions of the Council of 18th July 1972, 22nd July 1977, 1st October 1982, 10th July 1987, 25 June 1992 and 18-19 and 22-23 December 1997 concerning the continuation of the Committee on Consumer Policy [C(72)132(Final), C(77)134(Final), C(82)121(Final), C(87)116(Final), C(92)116/Final and C(97)197/FINAL];

Having regard to the conclusions of the October 1998 Ottawa Ministerial conference “A Borderless World: Realising the Potential of Global Electronic Commerce”, and in particular to the Ministerial Declaration on Consumer Protection in the Context of Electronic Commerce adopted by Ministers at this Conference [Annex 2 to C(98)177], and to the OECD Action Plan for Electronic Commerce which was endorsed by Ministers [SG/EC(98)10/REV5];

Considering the economic and social importance of a broad-based consumer policy in Member countries and the close relationship of this policy with general economic and trade policies;

Considering the need to minimise economic costs to consumers and to facilitate the integration of consumer policy considerations into economic policy;

Considering the need to improve the functioning of markets, encourage the development of a global marketplace for consumers, including through the use of new electronic media, and to provide effective protection to consumers;

Considering that the implementation of such a policy would be encouraged by exchanges of information and experience, discussions, and law enforcement and policy co-operation between Member countries, as well as co-operation with other international organisations;

On the proposal of the Secretary-General after consultation with the Committee on Consumer Policy:

DECIDES:

I. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Committee on Consumer Policy are:

1. to examine questions relating to consumer law and policy in the various countries and within international and regional organisations and to contribute to the further development and strengthening of co-operation between Member countries in policy development and law enforcement;

2. to examine and help to develop the consumer aspects of electronic commerce, to participate in and encourage the development of the principles which should govern an efficient and fair global marketplace for consumers, and to develop mechanisms for the implementation of these principles and for the effective enforcement of consumer laws in an age of global electronic commerce;
3. to examine issues of consumer safety, particularly those concerning international trade or the development of a global marketplace for consumers;
4. as appropriate, to consult with the advisory bodies to OECD, BIAC and TUAC, consumer organisations, the private sector, academia and other international organisations.

II. Review of terms of reference

The terms of reference of the Committee on Consumer Policy shall remain in force until 31st December 2001, unless the Council decides otherwise as a result of a review prior to that date.

III. Amendment to the Annex to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation

Paragraph 23 of the Annex to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation shall be amended as follows: Committee on Consumer Policy: its terms of reference are defined in the Resolution of the Council C(98)199/FINAL.