OECD SEMINAR ON CONSUMER POLICY IN THE NINETIES

Paris, 8th-9th October, 1991

The OECD is organising a high-level seminar on consumer policy in the nineties, to be held on 8th and 9th October 1991. Businessmen, representatives of consumer organisations and academics will join with members of the OECD Committee on Consumer Policy to discuss the major consumer policy problems and prospects for the nineties.

Both the objectives and structure of present-day consumer policy have been strongly influenced by the priorities and concerns emphasised by the consumer movements that came into being after World War II. This led in the early 1970s to the establishment of specific institutions and regulations in OECD countries. The fundamental aims of consumer policy remain entirely valid, but in recent decades that policy has increasingly become an integral part of general economic policy. Also, it has broadened its range of action. Lastly, technological and socio-economic change requires a different response. This whole question demands reflection, therefore, in order that the challenges of the coming decade may be met.

The seminar discussions will be organised in the form of round tables on the following topics:

- consumer policy and socio-economic change,
- transparency, consumer information and the functioning of markets,
- consumer policy and international trade,
- improved consumer representation and redress.
The opening session, chaired by Mr. Joop Koopman, Chairman of the OECD Committee on Consumer Policy and Director, Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs, will include statements by Mr. Robert Cornell, OECD Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. François Doubin, French Minister for Commerce, Crafts and Consumer Affairs, and Mr. Karel van Miert, Member of the Commission of the European Communities. The discussions will be introduced by Mr. Pierre Blais, Canadian Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The opening session will be followed by a press conference.

Journalists are invited to attend the opening session, on Tuesday 8th October at 10 a.m., and the press conference which follows at 11.15 a.m. at OECD Headquarters, 2 rue André Pascal, Paris 16.

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