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NOTE

from:	General Secretariat
to:	Delegations
Subject:	Partial summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) , held in Brussels on 30 September 2013

Item 5 on the agenda

Exchange of views with Mr Neven Mimica, Member of the European Commission responsible for Consumer Policy

Commissioner Mimica outlined his priorities for the upcoming months. He emphasised the importance of completing the legislative proposals in the consumer policy area during the current European Parliament's term, i.e. on product safety, medical devices and payment accounts. He welcomed the EP's and Council's progress in the current negotiations on these files. Furthermore, he believed that a solution would soon be found on the country of origin question on the product safety file. As regards medical devices, he said the improvement of the internal market was an essential requirement for the European industries' competitiveness. He stressed that the work on the directive on payment accounts needed to move forward quickly. The Commissioner expressed his determination to implement legislation on online dispute resolution (ODR) and announced that

guidelines for the transposition of the ADR directive would be submitted next year. Mr Mimica expected to have the ODR platform in place by 2016. He also stressed the need to further enforce existing consumer legislation which included in particular the elimination of unfair commercial practices and ensuring respect for consumer rights in collaboration with national enforcement authorities.. He also announced that a report on the implementation of the consumer protection cooperation regulation would be presented to the European Parliament and the Council next year. A public consultation on the implementation of the regulation would be launched soon with an open-ended review process. Mr Mimica pointed out that his third priority was to secure tangible results from the policies launched in the areas of e-commerce and the energy market. The Commissioner announced that a report would be published at the next EU energy forum aimed at making energy billing more transparent. He also intended to look at best practices in Member States in the field of switching energy providers. He noted that there were some encouraging initiatives in this regard, which could be extended to other Member States.

Ms Gebhardt (S&D, DE) underlined the need for EU citizens to have free or cheap basic bank accounts. She expressed her disappointment at the sluggish progress to date on collective redress and urged the Commission to make greater efforts on this issue.

Ms Weiler (S&D, DE) recalled the need to adopt the three directives before the EP elections. She expressed her disappointment that the Commission did not initiate legislation on collective redress. She also urged the adoption of legislation on transparency in the energy market before the EP elections.

In response to the questions, Commissioner Mimica pointed to three legislative packages that were in their decisive stages. On medical devices, he hoped there would be similar progress and speed in the Council as already seen in the EP on this file. He hoped trilogue negotiations to start no later than December. On collective redress, he indicated that the Commission intended to engage with Member States to ensure that the recommendations were implemented in as many Member States as possible.