



POINT OF SALE FINANCE BADLY HIT BY PROPOSED CONSUMER CREDIT DIRECTIVE

Brussels, 8 May 2007

The German Presidency looks determined to reach an agreement on the consumer credit Directive at any cost. A meeting of the consumer affairs attachés is scheduled for Thursday 10 May in order to try and sort out the outstanding issues, thereby paving the way for an agreement at Coreper level (16 May) to be subsequently endorsed by the Competitiveness Council on 21-22 May.

Eurofinas (the European Federation representing the national associations of consumer credit providers) and EuroCommerce (the Federation representing the retail, wholesale and international trade sectors in Europe) are particularly concerned about the impact the Directive would have on the financing of goods at the point of sale.

Eurofinas' Director General Tanguy van de Werve commented: "As it currently stands, consumers buying, say, a TV set with a credit provided at the point of sale would, *de facto*, have to wait 14 days before being authorized to carry it away. No one stands to benefit from such a rule. When it comes to the distribution of credit at the point of sale, consumers should be offered the possibility to waive their right of withdrawal if they want immediate delivery of the purchased good".

For the Secretary General of EuroCommerce, Xavier R. Durieu, the primary objective of this text was to harmonise consumer credit legislation throughout Europe to create a genuine Internal Market for consumer credit agreements. He added: "by trying to find a consensus at any cost, the Council risks giving birth to a text that will betray the former expectations of business and consumers alike. Better regulation also means that the legislation adopted is clear, practical and fulfills its objectives".

Both Eurofinas and EuroCommerce call on the Council to recognize the importance and benefits of point of sale finance in today's economy.

For more information, please contact:

Anne Valette
+32 2 778 05 65
a.valette@eurofinas.org

