



**2014**  
**Annual Report by members of the**  
**European Consumer Consultative Group (ECCG)**  
**representing national consumer organisations**

In accordance with Article 7 of the Rules of procedures of the ECCG (Mechanisms to strengthen consultation and information of national organisations) ECCG members are requested to report on the information dissemination and consultation mechanisms they put in place and use to systematically inform consumer organisations at national level about the activities of the ECCG.

**Name:** **Libor DUPAL**

**Organisation:** **Sdružení českých spotřebitelů / Czech Consumer Association**

**Function:** **Statutory Director**

**1. Please describe the consulting mechanisms you use to inform other consumer organisations at national level on the work of the ECCG.**

(e.g: e-mail list for circulation of meeting agendas, ECCG documents, operational conclusions, minutes, frequency of meetings/events with national consumer organisations on the work of the ECCG e.g: meetings before and/or after ECCG meetings, national/regional events)

- a) **National network for ECCG** was established in October 2013, just after the writer of this report was officially nominated as the Czech Member of ECCG.
- b) The platform of the **National network for ECCG** is to serve for distributing information circulated within and receive from ECCG and to prepare opinions on behalf of the Czech consumers.
- c) All important documents and information on events etc. related to ECCG and other events of EC are distributed within the participating organizations. The platform of the **National network for ECCG** may be summoned in cases of exceptional needs and interest of any of the participating organization; the communication is, however, generally based on mail correspondence.

The participating organizations, contacts/email list:

- D-TEST - dtest@dtest.cz; pavlik@dtest.cz; zeleny@dtest.cz
  - Občanské poradny - aop@obcanskeporadny.cz;
  - Sdružení pro bezpečnost potravin a ochranu spotřebitele - davidpesekfc@gmail.com
  - Generation – Europe - info@generation-europe.cz;
  - Spotřebitel Net - spotrebitel@spotrebitel.net;
  - SOS – Moravskoslezský kraj - reichelova@sos-msk.cz;
  - SOS – Asociace - gerta.mazalova@seznam.cz;
  - European consumer center - esc@coi.cz
  - Sdružení českých spotřebitelů / Czech Consumer Association - spotrebitel@regio.cz
- For more information about these organizations, please see the **websites** [here](#).

- d) Particularly, a special **section for ECCG** was opened **at web sites** of the Sdružení českých spotřebitelů / Czech Consumer Association: [see](#), [see](#) or [see](#), respectively, as examples of views. All important documents and information on events are explored here or referred from here.

## **2. How do you ensure that the views of other consumer organisations are conveyed at the ECCG meetings?**

- We developed an (open) **list of areas of all relevant consumer issues and topics**. All the consumer organizations represented in the Consumer Advisory Committee under Ministry of Industry and Trade were invited to participate at platform of the **National network for ECCG** and so to be informed and or to participate in coordinated discussions and commenting on ECCG documents.
- In the overview each NGO as listed above could express its interest to be involved generally (just to be involved as a passive participant) or to cooperate actively on any of the consumer issues to be discussed. The model is considered to be an important and effective tool for Libor Dupal - the member to ECCG to contact quickly a particular expert of any NGO to prepare an opinion for ECCG, when it is not enough time.
- The list / overview **of areas of all relevant consumer issues and topics** is explored on the website - [here](#).
- Within the last year we addressed the participating organizations concerning the following topics for consultation and to express their opinions and suggestions.
  - o Agendas of ECCG meetings: Febr 2014, June 2014, Nov 2014, March 2015  
(No response from participating organizations)
  - o Czech Republic Country presentation, June 2014  
(Active approach of some participating organizations, suggestions received)
  - o “Digital Word”, the Czech Republic input, a supporting paper for tour de table, Nov 2014  
(No response from participating organizations)
  - o EC questionnaire on the topic of “Comparative tools and verifying by 3<sup>rd</sup> Party”; Febr 2014  
(Czech Consumer Association fulfilled the questionnaire. We do not have any information whether any other organization participated)

## **3. Please indicate issues that, in your opinion, have affected the consumer landscape in your country (positive and /or negative). (e. g. changes in national consumer policy approach affecting consumer organisations, level of enforcement of EU acquis, sectors/markets where consumers in particular face weak protection etc.)**

- a) Nominating Mrs. V. Jourova as the Commissioner for area of consumers has made consumer affairs more visible in media in the Czech Republic.

The Czech Consumer Association was the first subject on the market who came into media with the opinion how important is the portfolio JUST-CO for Mrs Jourova ([see here](#)). The briefing report was broadly published in media.

We expect that the consumer affairs will have higher preference in the politics decisions now, while in the past the topic was diminished seriously.

- b) EU regulation very positively affected the consumer issues in the country within last years (product safety, economic interest of consumers incl. financial services, tourist services, etc. etc.).

There are number of areas, however, where there is still lack of EU legal initiatives (safety of services as an example).

- c) TTIP: On the basis of the series of rather emotional and subjective speeches from some ECCG members within the last year on the topic of TTIP, the Czech Member has checked the ministerial structures responsible for preparing the Czech position for the negotiations. He was invited into the team of representatives of stakeholders lead by the Deputy Minister Mr Bartl.

The Czech Member of ECCG is prepared now to develop and coordinate “consumer discussion on TTIP” in the Czech Republic, on the base of constructive, objective approach.

- d) Child shoes: The Czech Consumer Association and the writer of this report personally, for several years initiated national as well as European discussion on needs of European standardization of child footwear. Now the Commission put this topic on the list of standardization tasks (first the mandate to be developed). We welcome this development and progress.

**4. Please include a list of organisations (names of organisations and websites) you have consulted and kept informed during the reporting period.**

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