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### **Commissioner Dalli opens General Assembly of European Consumer Organisations**

The European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Affairs, John Dalli, has this morning addressed the opening of BEUC's General Assembly. Commissioner Dalli said:

"A citizen-based approach will apply right across the board of my responsibilities – to our health, the food we eat and the products and services we buy. We need to start by identifying the problems faced by our citizens in their daily life and concentrate on delivering practical, concrete, EU-value-added measures to solve them. BEUC's proper involvement in the formulation of EU policies is of great importance. I am sure that we will enjoy a constructive and fruitful partnership in the years to come towards achieving tangible and ambitious results to enhance the welfare and rights of European consumers."

The BEUC General Assembly is taking place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, to mark the 20th anniversary of BEUC's Slovenian member ZPS, the Slovenian consumer organisation.

At the meeting, BEUC's members expressed their concerns in relation to EU consumer and health policy and called on the Commissioner to ensure consumer interests are appropriately taken into account in the Commission's policy making process and in particular in upcoming key initiatives of the Commission, such as the relaunch of the Single Market and the Digital Agenda as well as in EU policy making in general.

Commenting, BEUC President, Paolo Martinello, said:

"At a time when Europe's decision makers are dealing with such important dossiers such as food information, pharmaceutical legislation and collective redress, we are delighted that the Commissioner in charge of coordinating these initiatives has taken the time to travel to Ljubljana to openly exchange views with us."

Breda Kutin, BEUC Vice President and President of ZPS, which is hosting the event, concluded:

"We are delighted at the opportunity to host the general assembly of BEUC in Ljubljana for the first time. This is also the first time for the General Assembly to take place in one of the new Member States. We regard this as additional acknowledgment of the work of the Slovenian Consumers' Association and a proof that the consumer protection policy is not shaped by one single state, but at European level."

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