

WIDE STORY

You and the European elections

In June, there'll be the first elections to the European Parliament. How this Parliament votes is likely to affect *you*. So who gets elected – and what they do when they are elected – is important. We and other consumer organisations in the EEC – through BEUC, the consumer lobby that we've jointly set up in Brussels – are publishing this list of consumer action points. Our election tip to candidates: support these action points. They include:

- **Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy** A more balanced system is needed, where the needs of consumers are given equal weight with those of producers. For a start, we'd like to see a cut – or at least a freeze – in the prices of dairy products, beef, soft wheat, sugar and wine, until the surpluses have disappeared

- **Anti-protectionism**
Demands for import controls

should be resisted – for example, last year's agreement to limit drastically imports of clothing and textiles should have been opposed. And competition within the EEC should be encouraged – eg by combating price fixing

- **Withdrawal of dangerous products** At present, goods found dangerous in Country A can be shunted off to Country B. To prevent this, we need an EEC-wide system for warning about – and withdrawing – dangerous products

- **The right of consumers to be informed and consulted** Consumers, too – not just manufacturers and trade unions – should be consulted on all EEC issues which affect them

- **Help for disadvantaged consumers** There should be EEC financial backing for schemes to help, for example, the elderly and handicapped.