



# Towards EU election: Strengthening the European Union for a more effective consumer protection

European Consumer Union official presentation

Tuesday 5th March 2019, from 10:30 to 12:30  
European Parliament, room A3H-1  
Hosted by MEP Daniele Viotti, S&D

## Panelist



### Grace Attard

Grace Attard is founder member of the Association for Consumer Rights, Malta (ACR) and was elected General Secretary (2011). She was elected ANEC GA member (2013) and Steering Committee member (2015). Currently, she is EESC delegate on the CCMI in which role she works to ensure a level playing field between the business sector and consumers interests. Recently, she has been appointed on the Board of the European Consumers Organisation – ECU. She was Bureau Member of the EESC Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship, member of EESC Section for the Single Market, Production and Consumption, Member of the EESC Category: Consumers and Farmers and of the EESC CCMI (Consultative Committee on Industrial Change). Grace Attard is also a teacher of English, Media Literacy, History, Career Guidance, Counsellor and more recently 'Empowerment for Employment' Courses for adults.



### Guy Beaune

Guy Beaune is the National Secretary of the French consumer organisation Indecosa CGT and in 2017 was appointed Vice-President of the European Consumer Union. He is also Member of the National Consumer Council, of the High Committee of the Quality of the Transport Services and of the High Council of Energy.





**Andrew Ebrill**

Andrew Ebrill is the Secretary General of the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER), which is the voice of 37 energy regulators from across Europe. Andrew, an Irish national, has worked for many years in the energy regulatory community, as CEER Secretary General and as a manager with Ireland's energy regulator, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities. Through CEER, a not-for-profit organisation based in Brussels, European energy regulators cooperate, exchange best practice and develop regulatory policy in order to benefit Europe's energy consumers. CEER's focus is on promoting competitive, secure and sustainable European energy markets which deliver for consumers.



**Paolo Falcioni**

Paolo Falcioni has been APPLiA's Director General since January 2014. In this position he focused on improving the association visibility and effectiveness within Europe and internationally. To that extent, he has been one of the founders of the International Roundtable of Household Appliance Manufacturers Associations (IRHMA), which tackles world-wide issues like sustainability and innovation in a global manner. He served for three year as Chairman of the Coalition for Energy Savings, a multi-stakeholder group aiming at improving energy efficiency in Europe. He is also one of the Board members in Smart Energy Europe, smartEn fostering demand side management to help consumers to reap the benefits of the new Energy market. In 2016 he has been nominated member of the REFIT platform as a representative of the stakeholder group. The REFIT Platform brings together the Commission, national authorities and other stakeholders in regular meetings to improve existing EU legislation.





### Carina Törnblom

Carina Törnblom is a Lawyer and started in the European Commission in 2000. She works since recently in the role as adviser to the Director for Consumers in The Directorate General for Justice and Consumers. She was previously the Head of the Consumer Strategy, Representation and International Relations Unit in DG Justice and Consumers, working to integrate the interests of 500 million EU consumers in all EU policies, aligning Consumer Policy to the priorities of the Juncker College focusing on the integration of Consumer Policy in the Digital Single market, the Energy Union, Circular economy, Collaborative economy and International Trade Negotiations. Carina was previously responsible for heading the Unit for Consumer and Marketing Law and the Regulation for Enforcement Cooperation and the Unit for Agriculture – Food products and Health in the Health and Consumers Directorate General.



### Sergio Veroli

Sergio Veroli is the President of the European Consumer Union and Vice-President of the Italian consumer organisation Federconsumatori. For more than 20 years, he worked in the trade union Italian General Confederation of Labor (CGIL) becoming in 2001 the National Secretary of Nidil. Since 2005, he is Vice-President in the Italian consumer organisation Federconsumatori coordinating also in 2012 the project “EU4consumers”. In 2009, he was appointed as President of the Consumers’ Forum and in 2015 Deputy Secretary Vice-President at Federconsumatori.



### Daniele Viotti

Daniele Viotti, MEP, is an Italian politician and Member of the European Parliament. Born in Alessandria in 1974, and a graduate in Political Science from the University of Eastern Piedmont, he started his political activity in the Italian Youth Left. He was then elected as a city councillor in Alessandria for the Democrats of the Left (Democratici di Sinistra, DS). In 2007, the year of its foundation, he joined the Democratic Party (Partito Democratico, PD). In May 2014, he was elected to the European Parliament with the Democratic Party (S&D) in the North-West constituency (Piedmont, Lombardy, Liguria, Valle d’Aosta). At the European Parliament, he is a member of the Budgets Committee (BUDG) and of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee (LIBE). Since November 2017, he has co-presided the LGBTI Intergroup of the European Parliament. In 2018, he was appointed as general rapporteur for the 2019 EU Budget.





### Mariano Votta

Mariano Votta is the Secretary General of the European Consumer Union, Responsible for European Affairs at Cittadinanzattiva and Director of its European branch Active Citizenship Network. He has more than 17 years of experience in the field of protection of citizens' rights, stakeholder engagement, communication and civic information. His was the idea to encourage and promote the Member of the European Parliament Interest Group "European Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare" at the European Parliament during 2015. In August 2017, the EU Commission officially appointed Mariano Votta as Full Member of the European Consumer Consultative Group (ECCG) for the next 3 years.

