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A longer life-time for products

a win-win solution for European consumers and businesses

INTRODUCTION

It seems we have to replace consumer products more and more frequently. Often it is cheaper and easier for consumers to buy a new product than to repair it or replace parts. There is little incentive to prolong the life of a product through repair, nor to re-use or recycle it. It is ever more apparent that resources are becoming scarcer and in the future this can cause serious problems for the environment and the economy. This Greens/EFA conference therefore aims to examine the win-win benefits of a longer product lifetime, for consumers, businesses, society and the environment.

PROGRAMME

15:00-15:30

Welcome and Introduction

Serge Latouche, Economist and University Professor, specialist of planned obsolescence *15:30-16:30*

Panel 1: Economic, social and environmental benefits of a longer life-time for products Moderated by **Thierry Libaert**, University Professor and Member of the EESC

1. Benefits for consumers

Sylvia Maurer, Head of sustainability and safety, BEUC

2. Social benefits

Lilian Ojeda, Policy Officer, RREUSE

3. Environmental benefits

Jocelyn Blériot, Executive Officer, Ellen MacArthur Foundation

4. Economic benefits

Tbc

16:30-17:30

Panel 2: Appropriate actions to promote a longer life-time for products Moderated by **Thierry Libaert**, University Professor and Member of the EESC

1. National examples

Claude Turmes, Member of the European Parliament

2. A success story

Bas Van Abel, CEO and founder of Fairphone

3. Legal perspective

Bob Schmitz, European Affairs Advisor, The Consumers Union of Luxembourg

4. European added-value

Ferenc Pekar, Policy Officer, Circular Economy and Eco-innovation Unit of DG ENV

17:30-18:30

Conclusions and debate _____

Registration and practical information

- For registration and accreditation please provide your name, date of birth, type and number of ID and nationality to igor.soltes-office@ep.europa.eu
- Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and German

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