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Euroconsumers waves off its CEO, as Ivo Mechels passes on the baton to Antonio Balhanas

After dedicating 28 years to serving consumers, including a 7-year tenure as CEO at Euroconsumers, **Ivo Mechels** has decided to leave his position effective July 1st. Ivo Mechels started his career in the consumer movement back in 1995 when he joined the Belgian consumer organisation as a lawyer and policy officer, soon to become the leader of the Belgian public affairs team and face of Testachats/Testaankoop as a spokesperson. He then moved on to Euroconsumers as director of public affairs and media relations, before taking up the position of CEO in 2016.

“Working for consumers has never been a job to me, it is a passion that has driven me throughout my entire career. It has been an absolute privilege to lead this unique and world leading consumer entity that is Euroconsumers. At times it has been a bumpy road, steering our organisation through consecutive economic, covid and cost of living crises. But it is with a sense of accomplishment and gratefulness I pass on an organisation that is now better prepared to face the challenges the future will bring. Anno 2023 consumers are better safeguarded than ever before, at the same time uncertainty is becoming increasingly prevalent. Now more than ever we need a strong organisation like Euroconsumers to lead the way” - Ivo Mechels

As of 1st July Ivo Mechels will pass on the baton as CEO to **Antonio Balhanas**, former country manager at Deco Proteste, Euroconsumers’ organisation in Portugal. However, the consumer movement will continue to be able to rely on him, as Ivo Mechels will join Euroconsumers Board of Directors, overseeing the functioning and driving the evolution of the organisation.

ABOUT EUROCONSUMERS

Gathering five national consumer organisations and giving voice to a total of more than 1,5 million people in Italy, Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Brazil, Euroconsumers is the world’s leading consumer cluster in innovative information, personalised services and defence of consumer rights. Our European member organisations are part of the umbrella network of BEUC, the European Consumer Organisation. Together we advocate for EU policies that benefit consumers in their daily lives.