

PRESS RELEASE

Euroconsumers attends together with DECO PROTESTE Web Summit to promote consumer cybersecurity

The Space Shelter game will be present at the largest technology conference in the world to explain the importance of preventive digital behaviors, in a period of considerable increase in online traffic.

Lisbon, October 29th, 2021: Euroconsumers together with its Portuguese national organization Deco-Protteste will be present with a booth at the next edition of the Web Summit, between November 2nd and 4th, to present the [Space Shelter](#) game – a joint initiative between the organization and Google that aims to encourage consumers to increase their degree of protection in the digital environment.

The growing number of cyber threats, catalyzed by the pandemic from March 2020, and which were mainly related to phishing/smishing practices, malware-infected systems, fraud/swindling, and digital misinformation, led to the creation of a platform that could explain to consumers all the dangers existing on the internet and what forms of defense in these situations.

Marco Scialdone, Head of Litigation & Academic Outreach at Euroconsumers, says that “technological evolution must be accompanied by broader digital literacy, especially if there is a significant increase in users on the various online platforms, as has been seen over the period of pandemic”. Marco Scialdone also points out that “this game is one of the initiatives that marks Euroconsumers' position in the defense and protection of consumers, assuming information as the main catalyst for preventive behavior. The presence at the Web Summit allows us to bring this initiative closer to the various technological brands and corroborate the idea that it is necessary to promote the privacy and security of consumers”.

According to the Cybersecurity Observatory, 847 incidents were registered in 2021, more than the 689 registered in 2020 and the 378 reported in 2019, which translates into an increase of 124% in the last two years. About 49% of complaints are related to sextortion practices, with phishing/smishing (38%), CEO Fraud (12%), attempted fraud through (8%) and fraud through the MbWay platform (7%) were also reported by consumers.

Euroconsumers will also deliver the “My Data is Mine” award which challenged young researchers to develop insights into data privacy and technologies that can improve existing policies. This Award will be delivered to the writer of the best competing essay on the PANDA Stage, on November 3rd at 15h55.

About Space Shelter

The game “Space Shelter” turns knowledge about online safety into an adventure, with simple graphics, design, and quality sound. Players will be able to select an avatar chosen from a set of characters, then go through a series of five mini-games before finally reaching their destination: the Space Shelter. At the same time, it will be possible to discover the elements that make an Internet account secure, from using a password manager to understanding multifactor authentication, as well as various consumer privacy settings that are available. The aim of this new game is to help people of all ages to test their knowledge and learn new tricks, just by having a normal/basic internet connection.