

21 March 2022

## **New Start Talking webinar: “Crypto: New Kids on the Block”** **Euroconsumers and Deco Proteste co-host an open discussion on cryptocurrencies from a consumer perspective**

On Wednesday 23 March, Euroconsumers will co-host a webinar with our Portuguese member Deco Proteste focusing on **cryptocurrencies from a consumer perspective**.

It will be livestreamed on [Euroconsumers’ LinkedIn Page](#) and [Youtube Channel](#) at **15:00 CET, 23rd March**.

The webinar is part of Euroconsumers’ monthly **Start Talking** series, a new and innovative format to discuss hot button consumer issues in a frank and open dialogue with stakeholders of all kinds.

Cryptocurrencies could be the biggest technological disruption of the last decade. Do they offer a transformative opportunity for decentralised payments, investment opportunities, new services and ways to create value? Or expose markets and individuals to cybercrime, loss of accountability and huge carbon footprints? How can consumer organisations help steer innovation to maximise advantages for society while minimising the potential for harm? What does crypto tell us about the future of consumer market structures and interactions? **Let’s start talking!**

Our Crypto discussion - **“From Revolution to Regulation”** - will draw on the expertise of crypto experts, consumer protection specialists, and the view from the European Commission. Speakers include:

- Jan Ceyssens - Head of the Digital Finance Unit at the European Commission
- Carlos Lobo - Professor of Law at Lisbon University and former Portuguese Secretary of State for Tax Affairs
- Robert Kopitsch - Secretary General of Blockchain 4 Europe
- Natasha de Terán - Author of “The Pay Off: How Changing the Way We Pay Changes Everything”
- Marco Pesani - Chief Product Officer of Bitrefill
- André Gouveia - Cryptocurrency Expert at Deco Proteste

It will be moderated by Consumer Tech Policy Expert Liz Coll.

“At Euroconsumers we believe in the power of dialogue. We like to hear all points of view, explore both opportunities and challenges. Always with an open mind and without prejudice or discrimination,” said **Marco Pierani, Director of Public Affairs & Media Relations at Euroconsumers**. “Only by challenging the status-quo and testing our own beliefs, can we be sure they are truly the right ones”.

“Last week’s Consumers International Fair Digital Finance forum was all about embracing and promoting innovation, while properly ensuring inclusive, safe and sustainable finance,” said **Els Bruggeman, Head of Policy and Enforcement at Euroconsumers**. “This balancing act is equally applicable to crypto currencies. How can we embrace this innovation and empower consumers, but equally secure consumer safety and sustainability?”

## Background

The webinar will build on last weeks’ [Fair Digital Finance Forum](#), a week of events from the 14-18th March by Consumers International and its 200 international members, including Euroconsumers’ member organisations, to mark **World Consumer Rights Day** with a week of events on the theme of fair digital finance. Euroconsumers’ member organisations ran a series of activities promoting a different aspect of fair digital finance each day.

- On the 15th our Spanish member [OCU developed](#) workshops and conferences in different Spanish cities to promote **inclusion in digital finance**.
- On the 16th our Belgium member [Test Achats/Test Aankoop spotlighted](#) victims of **phishing** and supported legal action against institutions that refuse to compensate consumers.
- On the 17th our Portuguese member [Deco Proteste announced](#) the Start Talking webinar on **cryptocurrencies** to be held on the 23rd.
- On the 18th our Italian member [Altroconsumo highlighted](#) the importance of **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)** factors in **sustainable finance**.

## About Euroconsumers

Gathering five national consumer organisations and giving voice to a total of more than 1.5 million people, Euroconsumers is the world’s leading consumer cluster in innovative information, personalised services and defence of consumer’s rights. We work closely together with Consumers International to ensure consumers are safe, that markets are fair and benefit from honest relations with businesses and authorities. Our European member groups are also part of the umbrella network of BEUC, the European Consumer Organisation. Together we advocate for EU policies that benefit consumers in their daily lives.

### Media Contact:

Laurence Modrego

[laurence@thegoodlobby.eu](mailto:laurence@thegoodlobby.eu)