

1 **EFGP 3rd Congress, Berlin – Draft Resolution**

2
3 Introduced by Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (Germany)

4 5 **Securing the basic necessities of life:**

6 **Consumer protection - a question of international justice**

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8 The international flow of goods, the international division of labour and the emergence of transnational
9 companies as global players are turning consumer protection into a global task. This trend, as a result of
10 which 52 of the 100 largest economic entities are commercial enterprises, is throwing up new questions.
11 We want to achieve better control through greater transparency in order to provide greater security for
12 consumers. For the first time consumers have the possibility of making a decision, through what they
13 choose to buy, in favour of fair production conditions.

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15 It is particularly essential to guarantee security for all people with regard to the key necessity for every
16 human life, namely food. Food security is indivisible!

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18 But what also concerns many people is securing the basic conditions for the provision of nutrition. Every
19 person has a right of access to adequate food. The forthcoming World Food Summit must make an issue
20 of the Code of Conduct. This right must become a key criterion for good governance!

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22 We are particularly concerned in this context about the development of green genetic engineering. This
23 technology is aimed above all at rationalizing jobs, while its long-term effects on nature - on biodiversity, for
24 example - are impossible to predict. It is the big companies that will be the main beneficiaries, not the
25 people in the places of production, nor consumers.

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27 Every year large areas of virgin forest are cleared to allow major companies to plant forage plants such as
28 genetically modified soya for the intensive livestock farming industry in Europe. In place of this, we want to
29 promote socially, ecologically and economically sustainable cultivation methods which guarantee the
30 livelihood of rural populations, strengthen the internal market and ensure that what is produced for export
31 is what consumers want.

32 33 **Consequences of the opposition to globalization**

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35 To this end we need a new agricultural policy. A change of direction in agricultural policy requires support
36 in the form of global government action. We are critical of the WTO and advocate that it should be
37 anchored in UN structures. The ongoing resistance demonstrated by civil society shows that the WTO
38 must be reformed, that it is a matter of urgency to make the WTO and also the UN more democratic. One
39 of the tasks of the WTO must be to ensure fairness in world trade and, through an international trade
40 regime, to prevent the EU and the USA from pursuing a policy of economic protectionism. We are
41 particularly critical of the current protectionist trends in the USA in the steel trade and the farm bill
42 discussion.

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44 **Protection of rural areas, social standards, and environmental and consumer protection must be**
45 **firmly established as criteria for world trade!**

46 47 **Securing freedom of choice**

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49 The prerequisites of freedom of choice are information and transparency. Consumers have the right to
50 decide whether or not they wish to consume genetically modified products. There is consequently a
51 compelling need for labelling obligations and traceability. It is essential to ensure that it is possible to grow
52 GMO-free produce! This is particularly crucial in relation to organic farming.

53 We support the activities of all those who wish to secure freedom of choice:

- 54 • the farmers who want to know and decide for themselves what they produce,
 - 55 • the farmers with processing businesses who want to know and decide for themselves what they
56 feed their animals on,
 - 57 • the consumers who want to know and decide for themselves what they eat.
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1 **We want the EU to promote its consumer protection policy more forcefully in the international**
2 **arena.** Our aim is to establish the prospect of GMO-free production for the approximately 550 million
3 consumers in the enlarged EU, as well as for the producers of agricultural goods in the main grower
4 countries and hence particularly in the developing countries.
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6 **Consumers must take responsibility**

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8 We also want consumers to take more responsibility for production conditions.
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10 They must know

- 11 • whether the cocoa or chocolate they buy is the product of child labour,
- 12 • whether the clothing they buy is produced by companies who engage in social or ecological
13 dumping practices,
- 14 • or, alternatively, whether they buy products from companies that have undertaken to adhere to the
15 international regimes which represent the first small step in the global compact.
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17 **But for this to happen it is necessary for the interests of consumers to be heard:**

- 18 • It is necessary to establish a procedure for establishing international regimes that is transparent for
19 consumers.
- 20 • Consumer representatives must be admitted as observers in the relevant processes (as members
21 of national delegations, for example).
- 22 • There is a need for participatory instruments which provide consumers with a means of making
23 their voices heard.
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26 **Consumer rights must be translated into national, European and global government action in order**
27 **to improve consumer protection.**
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29 The establishment of a European Food Agency, the Green Paper on Consumer Protection, and the
30 implementation of product safety directives are the first steps in the process. But economic consumer
31 protection and protection against deception must not stop at national borders, because goods and services
32 do not do so. We want a EU which uses its power to champion consumer protection internationally. We
33 regard the last WTO round in Doha and the commitment of the EU to accept non trade-related criteria as a
34 first step in the right direction. Ensuring the international implementation of consumer rights is a
35 fundamental prerequisite for more equitable globalization.