

WS34 – Consumers

Session 1

The Chinese vision

- Despite the General lack of consumer awareness among Chinese about their rights and possibilities, there is an increased awareness, especially among women, about rights and changing consumer patterns towards a more eco-friendly consumption, e.g energy saving fridges.
- Lack of consumers organisations in China to defend consumers' rights since a number of legal difficulties prevents starting new NGOs.
- The Chinese consumers have some legal possibilities to sue companies that cheat them, but in practice it is very difficult.
- There is a development towards more civil society in China however such transition takes time.
- The increasing population and economic development of China means that the pressure to make consumption more sustainable will increase.
- Government and enterprises should be doing more via legislation and best practices to ensure sustainable consumption
- It is difficult to distribute information in China that is relevant for consumers that want to consume in a more sustainable way.

The European questions addressed to Chinese

- Q: An important tool for Consumers NGOs is access to government/administrative documents, Is that possible in China? A: Yes, in 2007 government documentation act was passed, however implementation will take some time.
- Q: Is child labour forbidden in China? A: Yes, but it still exists in some places.
- Q: Where do consumers get their information from? A: Word of mouth from consumer to consumer and via the Internet.
- Q: Is there boycott actions in China? A: Yes, boycott of e.g. products from endangered animals and redwood floor.
- Q: Is there a focus on labour rights among Chinese consumers? A: Not much, but there is a general increase of awareness about labour rights in China
- Q: Is it easy to be a sustainable consumer in China? A: There is energy labels on household appliances and an organic certification.



Session 2



Session 3



Session 4