

# International Association of Consumer Law Newsletter March 2009 Vol. 2, issue 1

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## Forthcoming Conferences & Seminars

### **FREE INVITATION to conference on the Proposal for a Directive on Consumer Rights & book launch, 7th April 2009 in Leuven (Faculty of Law, KU Leuven)**

As you may be aware, a number of conferences have been taking place in Europe concerning the European Commission's Proposal for a Consumer Rights Directive. In January of this year such a conference was organised by Prof. Geraint Howells and Prof. Reiner Schulze in Manchester, UK; with the conference papers to soon be published by Sellier in "Modernising and Harmonising Consumer Contract Law". To mark the publication of this volume and to present the results of the conference, a follow-up conference has been organised with the participation of Commissioner Meglena Kuneva. The conference is to take place at 10am on the 7th April 2009 in Leuven (Faculty of Law, KU Leuven) and will consist of a panel discussion with Commissioner Kuneva (or a representative from the Commission) as well as the presentation of the Manchester conference volume and a summary of the outcome of the conference. The conference is open to all who wish to attend; however the number of participants at the event is strictly limited to 50. Therefore please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to attend. At this stage I am unable to provide you with information concerning hotel accommodation etc., though once I have received further details I shall pass these on immediately. My e-mail address is: [J.M.Watson@web.de](mailto:J.M.Watson@web.de)

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**



**II Conference of the Euro-American Chair for the protection of consumers  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic May 25-28, 2009**  
<http://www.unican.es/catprocon>

The II Euro-American Conference on Consumer Law will take place in Santo-Domingo, Dominican Republic, May 26-28, 2009. The Conference theme is "LEGAL PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT" (see at the end of this newsletter for a full programme in English).

The following topics will be explored during the conference.

- \* Consumers health and safety: minimum standard in consumer protection
- \* Education as a key in the knowledge of consumer rights
- \* Tourist legal protection and its effect on the economic development of Latin-American nations
- \* New problems in consumer protection

The Organising Committee is inviting papers in the above areas to be selected for presentation at the event. All papers should follow the stylistic rules established by the organising committee (see below). The Organising committee will select a small number of papers to be presented at the event. The Organising Committee will also consider some papers for publication (without presentation).

Papers should be sent before 09th April 2009. Papers should be sent by mail to the following address [catprocon@unican.es](mailto:catprocon@unican.es). With the paper the following references should be included: topic, title, author/s, institution of origin, address and phone. Selected papers will be notified by 17th April 2009.

#### STYLE GUIDE

**Information:** papers will include topic, title, author/s, institution of origin, address and phone

**Length of papers:** all papers will have at the beginning an abstract of a maximum of 30 lines as well as an index with all the sections. Paper will not exceed 10 pages (Times New Roman or Arial, 12, single interlineal spacing)

**Bibliographical references:** bibliographical references will have the following structure:

- LAST NAME, First name.: "Article or chapter between inverted commas", *Title of book or publication in italics*, publishing company, city of publication, number of publication in case of periodical publications, year of publication, beginning page-ending page of article or book (pp. 25-50), page of reference.
- LAST NAME, First name: *Title of book or publication in italics*, publishing company, city of publication, page referenced (p. 25).

Please, do not use underlines or bold letters in the titles or in the main text, only italics following usual rules.

For more information and a Spanish version of the above and conference programme, see: <http://www.unican.es/catprocon>

### Courses

#### **Summer School in Consumer Law Montreal 29<sup>th</sup> June – 04<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

GREDDIC is organising during summer 2009 a summer school in consumer law. The objectives of such a programme are to offer a high-quality training in consumer law and policy with a special emphasis upon international and regional developments, to promote exchanges of knowledge, experiences and practices between participants from several legal systems and to enhance comparisons of legal tools, to provide the participants with up-dated documentation materials. It will focus on the most recent developments in International and Comparative Law. The programme may be credited as a course for graduate and postgraduate students (4 credits). Other recipients are academics, professors and researchers specialized or willing to specialize in consumer law and policy; officials of national administrations and/or public bodies in charge of consumer policy; officials of regional and international institutions competent for taking initiatives towards consumer protection and related matters on regional and global markets; heads of or lawyers working in consumers associations and related NGO's concerned with issues such as sustainable consumption; quality of life, health protection or fair trade; economic operators and heads of or lawyers working in business associations; judges, lawyers and legal consultants. Faculty staff will include professors and practitioners, all first-rank experts in consumer law, from Canada, United States, South America, and the European Union.

For more information and to register, see: <http://www.gredicc.uqam.ca/>

***European Masters in Consumer Affairs (EMCA) launching September 2009  
An initiative co-funded by the DG SANCO.***

The European Master in Consumer Affairs (EMCA) offers graduates and professionals alike, a unique opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge needed to enhance their chances of employment and career progression. The protection of consumers is now at the heart of European consumer policy. With 490 million consumers in Europe and their expenditure representing over half of the EU's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), consumers have been described as the lifeblood of the economy. Confident consumers are therefore an essential building block of the market to ensure continuing economic prosperity. Consumer focus is no longer a gimmick and businesses need to cater for satisfied consumers. This takes skills and knowledge. In the report on "the need for postgraduate education in Consumer Affairs in the European Union" (2005), the European Commission identified a gap between current provision and labour market demand. The report noted a lack of higher education graduates specially trained in European Consumer Affairs and strong employment prospects for those graduates who have specialist knowledge. The EMCA has received the financial backing of the European Commission DG Health & Consumer to develop such a course and train a new generation of highly skilled individuals.

EMCA Key facts:

- Our course is funded by the European Commission enabling students to benefit from reduced tuition fees and mobility grants
- We put a strong emphasis on employability with work placements, lectures by professionals in the field and a double degree programme awarding students with two full Masters from the two universities visited on successful completion of the course
- We offer an intensive training programme enabling graduates to reach the employment market fast and professionals to minimise their time away from the office
- We offer study in a consortium of highly recognised Universities in Europe

For more information, see [www.emca.info](http://www.emca.info)

<b>Journals' call for papers</b>
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***Journal of Consumer Policy – Call for paper closing 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009***

Special Issue on "Time Allocation, Consumption, and Consumer Policy (Working Title)" / Editor: Lucia Reisch (Copenhagen Business School) and Guest Editors: Wencke Gwozdz (CBS), Alfonso Sousa-Poza (University of Hohenheim)

Surprisingly little academic attention has been given to shifting patterns in time use in the past few decades, despite dramatic changes in time use. Since the 1980s, working time has declined in OECD countries by more than seven hours per week for both men and women, and, although total work (i.e. both paid and unpaid) is quite similar between genders, there is a gender-specific composition of this total work: women reduced their housework substantially, yet men increased theirs only marginally. Reduced working hours have also gone hand-in-hand with increases in leisure time. Additionally, big changes in the structure and timing of activities have taken place, e.g., individuals do not have as much uninterrupted time for one sole activity as they used to have in the past. Such changes do not only affect the allocation of time, but also private consumption in many areas. This, in turn, means a challenge for consumer policy.

This special issue of the Journal of Consumer Policy (JCP) focuses on understanding the causes and implications of these changing patterns of time allocation and consumption – from both an academic and a policy perspective. Relevant questions that can be addressed within this special issue are, *for example*:

Consumer aspects:

- Do we get financially richer - yet “time poorer”?
- What does this mean for the individual consumer?
- What has caused these changes in time allocation?

Policy aspects:

- What are the implications for consumer policy? Do, e.g., the “time-poor” pay more?
- Have policy measures influenced the way we allocate our time?
- Which policy instruments are needed to cope with the changes in time allocation?

Other aspects:

- Is there gender-specific behaviour with regard to time allocation and consumption?
- How can persistent gender differences in time use be explained?
- What are the effects of mother’s time structures on their children’s consumption (e.g. children’s eating patterns, mass media consumption, etc.)?
- Does marketing / advertisements enhance gender differences in time use patterns?

The editors of this special issue welcome contributions reflecting different perspectives, methodological approaches, international and cross-cultural contexts. While empirical papers are strongly encouraged, theoretical and conceptual contributions which address issues arising from time consumption and wider aspects of the time use debate within consumer policy research are particularly welcome.

**The papers for this special issue have to be submitted before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.**

Further details for submission are available at the journal website:

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/100283/>

## News from around the world

### AUSTRALIA

#### ***Consumer Round-table***

(Our thanks to Prof. Gail Pearson for this information)

In February the third national Consumer Law Roundtable Conference was held at Monash University in Melbourne, organized by Dr Jeannie Paterson and Professor Justin Malbon. The focus was on the coming Australian consumer law which will be the culmination of the Productivity Commission enquiry into the Australian framework for consumer protection. Earlier in the week of the Roundtable the Commonwealth Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs released a paper entitled “An Australian Consumer Law: Fair Markets - Confident Consumers (more on this below). The paper sets out proposed changes and poses a series of questions for further consultation. Of particular note is the decision to introduce legislation to regulate unfair terms in contracts and impose civil penalties.

<http://www.treasury.gov.au/contentitem.asp?NavId=014&ContentID=1484>

Professor Chris Willett visited Australia for the Consumer Law Roundtable and spoke on unfair contract terms. A number of papers at the Roundtable dealt with credit – financial exclusion; fees and charges; getting to a Commonwealth law for credit. There were updates on a study being conducted on the impact of disclosure for credit contracts and the timetable for introducing the coming legislation. There was a further update on harmonization of

European contract law and a paper on Japanese consumer law. The Consumer Law Roundtable is working towards a joint submission on the new national consumer law. We expect there will be a fourth Consumer Law Roundtable at the end of 2009. As one of the participants said – this is the best meeting I attend, we really get to talk through things.

### ***A new, uniform Australian consumer law***

(Our thanks to Eileen Webb for this information)

On February 17 2009, the Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs released an information and consultation paper (the Consultation Paper) entitled *An Australian Consumer Law: Fair markets - Confident consumers*. The Consultation Paper was in response to the flurry of activity with regard to Australian consumer law in 2008, in particular, the Productivity Commission's Report into Australia's Consumer Policy Framework<sup>1</sup> and the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreement to a new consumer policy framework.<sup>2</sup>

The cornerstone of the new consumer policy framework will be a new national consumer law, the *Australian Consumer Law*, based on the existing generic consumer protection provisions of the *Trade Practices Act* and included as a schedule to the TPA. It is anticipated that six operational objectives for consumer policy will be reflected in the new law, namely:

- to ensure that consumers are sufficiently well informed to benefit from and stimulate effective competition;
- to ensure that goods and services are safe and fit for the purposes for which they were sold;
- to prevent practices that are unfair;
- to meet the needs of those consumers who are most vulnerable or are at the greatest disadvantage;
- to provide accessible and timely redress where consumer detriment has occurred, and
- to promote proportionate, risk-based enforcement.

The legislation will provide uniform consumer protection law throughout Australia and is intended to apply to all consumer transactions, including financial services transactions. The *Australian Consumer Law* will achieve national operation as identical legislation will be enacted by the federal, state and territory governments. Therefore, unlike the present situation where Constitutional limitations largely restrict the operation of the *Trade Practices Act* to corporations, the new legislation will apply to all corporations, businesses and individuals.

In addition to adopting the existing consumer protection provisions from the *Trade Practices Act*, the *Australian Consumer Law* will introduce broader and more pervasive consumer rights, including provisions which:

- regulate unfair terms in consumer contracts;
- impose new penalties, enforcement powers and redress options for consumers; and
- introduce a new national product safety regulatory system.

Enforcement responsibilities will be divided amongst the relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory regulators. For the most part, the new law will come within the jurisdiction of the

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<sup>1</sup> Productivity Commission 2008, *Review of Australia's Consumer Policy Framework*, Final Report, Canberra. <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/consumer/docs/finalreport>

<sup>2</sup> The new consumer policy framework was proposed by the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs (MCCA).

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) although in some circumstances there will be joint enforcement by the ACCC and State and Territory consumer regulators. The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) will be the primary regulator for enforcement of consumer protection in the financial services area.

It is envisaged that the Australian Parliament will have passed legislation for the implementation of the Australian Consumer Law by December 2010.

The consultation paper can be viewed at:  
[http://www.treasury.gov.au/documents/1484/PDF/An\\_Australian\\_Consumer\\_Law.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov.au/documents/1484/PDF/An_Australian_Consumer_Law.pdf)

## Books

### **Books**

(News about new books as well as book reviews are welcome for our next editions, please contact [Christine.riefa@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:Christine.riefa@brunel.ac.uk)).

### ***Understanding EU Consumer Law***

Hans-W. Micklitz, Norbert Reich and Peter Rott  
December, 2008 | ISBN 978-90-5095-776-2 | xviii + 378 p. | paperback  
Price : € 85.00

EU consumer law is the core of European private law. In recent years, it has been subject to spectacular decisions by the European Court of Justice, with important consequences for the private law of Member States. Currently, it is under scrutiny by the EC Commission, which has just published a proposal for the revision of important aspects of the EU consumer law acquis. The three authors have worked together to take a broad horizontal approach at the European consumer law acquis, thereby reflecting on the history, the achievements and also the shortcomings of EC law in this important field of law. The change from 'minimum' to 'full' or 'targeted harmonisation' is critically analysed. The book contains an overall description of the position of EU consumer law between internal market law and consumer protection in Chapter 1. The following chapters 2 to 5 deal with advertising and commercial practices law mostly under Directive 2005/29/EC, with Directive 93/13/EEC on unfair terms in consumer contracts, with consumer sales under Directive 1999/44/EC and with the recent Directive 2008/48/EC on credit agreements for consumers. Chapter 6 takes a fresh look at an 'old acquaintance', namely Directive 85/374/EEC on product liability, 'upgraded' by an annex proposing an EC instrument introducing service liability. The closing chapters 7 and 8 concern cross-border consumer transactions, breaches of consumer law and litigation, and different mechanisms of individual and collective consumer protection to make consumer law effective and efficient. This volume gives consumer law in the EU a new perspective. It is equally indispensable for scholars and practitioners. It also serves as a valuable guide in the debate about the Commission proposal of October 2008 for a Directive on consumer rights.

More information about the book and a table of contents can be found at:  
<http://www.intersentia.com/searchDetail.aspx?bookId=100917>

## Conference & General Assembly in Hyderabad, INDIA

The IACL wishes to extend thanks to NALSAR for hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference. Particular thanks go to Prof. Reddy and her team of students for organising the event and providing us with a great show of Indian Culture at the Celebrity Club on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009.



### **General Assembly**

Report from Geraint Howells, IACL President

Chair Thomas Wilhelmsson.

At the board meeting, Thomas Wilhelmsson announced he had to resign due to workload in his new position as rector of Helsinki University. A report on activities was circulated (see below).

### **Report on Future Organisation of the International Association of Consumer Law (IACL)**

The IACL had been established as an Association under Belgian Law. At the Cape Town General Assembly it was agreed to dissolve this association and this was done according to Belgian Law in 2007. The IACL currently has funds of e 4.67 (!) held by the local association (Finnish Association of Consumer Law). It receives no regular income and has used the small funds it had to maintain our website and register new members. We currently have 260 members. The website ([www.iaclaw.org](http://www.iaclaw.org)) and membership list have been updated at the University of Helsinki (by a research assistant) and hosted at a webhotel provided by a private operator called Nebula in Helsinki at an annual cost of at present 175 e (so far paid until 31.7.2009).

We are therefore a thriving association that has chosen to have no formal legal basis, but nevertheless needs to have some organisation to enable us to fulfil our functions of maintaining an international network of consumer law academics through a newsletter and arranging an International conference at least every two years. We therefore propose the following organisational structure and plan for approval.

1. Board. We should maintain a board of the present size (1+14), which seeks to have representatives from all continents. Board members will serve for four years with half being re-elected every two years. These elections will coincide with the General Assembly which will take place every two years at the International Conference.
2. President. There will be a President who serves for four years. Thomas Wilhelmsson has to step down half-way through his term as he has been elected Rector of the University of Helsinki. Geraint Howells has agreed to step in and serve as President for the next two years.
3. Financing. The small funds of the Association be maintained at the disposal of the President, either on a separate account or by a local association or institution. Maintenance of web-site and membership list should be organised by the President. The cost of this should be met by a levy on all participants at the International Congresses after India. The size of such levy is intended to be modest (guide 10 euros) but should be fixed by the President and local organizers.
4. Conference. Expressions of interest in hosting the next conference be invited prior to General Assembly in Hyderabad where the venue will be discussed and if possible determined. Otherwise the venue will be decided by the board.
5. Newsletter. This be continued and considered an important function of IACL. Christine Riefa be thanked for her work as editor in chief and invited to continue.
6. Bilingualism. The IACL has been formally bilingual (English and French) whilst being willing to facilitate participation in other languages e.g. Spanish. In practice English has been the dominant language. Bilingualism and a facilitative approach to other languages should remain the position and in particular offers to host

conferences should be encouraged from non-English speaking countries and non-English contributions to the newsletter welcomed.

7. Statutes. If these arrangements of the organisation are approved by the General Assembly, they should be formulated in short 'Statutes' published on the website.

Helsinki, 27.2. 2009  
Thomas Wilhelmsson  
President

Geraint Howells was elected President and the existing Board re-elected for two years until General Assembly at next conference. The Association had been dissolved as a legal person under Belgium law. The President and the Board are to decide where the activities of the association would be located. Currently the web-page and the financial account are hosted in Finland. The conference organizers take the financial responsibility for the conference and no travel costs are met for anyone by the association. The Association has some financial needs, i.e. cost of hosting the web-page. The board discussed membership fees, but there was no desire to build up large reserves. Possibly a levy of 5-10 Euro could be included in conference fees. Four expressions of interest had been made regarding the next conference: a long standing offer from Thierry Bourgoignie for Canada, one from Sothi Rachagan, Malaysia; one from Monika Jozon Roumania/Hungary, and one from Christine Riefa, UK. The President will contact the persons concerned and consult with the Board to make a decision. Christine Riefa was thanked for her work on the newsletter. The Board expressed a desire to seek to promote bilingualism and the President will write to French language scholars. New actions will also include exploring cross publicity with social organizations and national associations and develop an Association emblem (NALSAR has offered to develop some models).

***Publication of selected conference papers***

Enquiries to be directed to [12consumerconference@gmail.com](mailto:12consumerconference@gmail.com), Prof. V. Reddy, Conference co-ordinator: [vidyullathareddy@gmail.com](mailto:vidyullathareddy@gmail.com) and our President, Geraint Howells.

***Conference Blog***

The conference blog (created and run by NALSAR students) can be consulted at: <http://nalsarconsumerconference.wordpress.com/>

**II Conference of the Euro-American Chair for the protection of consumers  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic May 25-28, 2009**



**LEGAL PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**II Euroamerican Conference on Legal Protection of Consumers**

*Santo Domingo, 26th to 28th May 2009*

**Scientific director:**

Jorge Tomillo Urbina, Full Professor of Commercial Law, University of Cantabria, Director of the Euroamerican Chair for Legal Protection of Consumers (Spain)

**Secretary:**

Julio Álvarez Rubio, Profesor of Commercial Law, University of Cantabria, Academia Director of the Euroamerican Chair for Legal Protection of Consumers (Spain)

**Committee of honor:**

Leonel Fernández Reyna, President of Dominican Republic  
Julio César Valentín, President of Congress of Dominican Republic  
Reynaldo Pared Pérez, President of Senate of Dominican Republic  
Franklin A. García Fermín, Rector of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
Federico Gutiérrez-Solana Salcedo, Rector of the University of Cantabria, Spain  
Ligia A. Melo de Cardona, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dominican Republic  
Vicente Bengoa Albizu, Minister of Economic Affairs, Dominican Republic  
José Ramón Fadul Fadul, Minister of Industry and Trade, Dominican Republic  
Francisco J. García, Minister of Tourism, Dominican Republic  
Ángel Agudo San Emeterio, Minister of Economic Affairs, Government of Cantabria, Spain

**26th May 2009**

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**16:00h. Opening ceremony**

Leonel Fernández, President of Dominican Republic  
Ángel Agudo, Minister of Economic Affairs, Government of Cantabria, Spain  
Jorge Tomillo, Full Professor of Commercial Law, Head of Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection

**Consumers health and safety as a minimum basis in legal protection of consumers**

**17:00h: "Consumer safety and market surveillance: strategies and legal tools"**

Thierry Bourgoignie, Professor of European, Comparative and International Consumer Law, Dean of the Law Department, Director of the Groupe de recherche en droit international et comparé de la consommation (GREDICC), Université du Québec à Montréal, academic

correspondent of the Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection in the Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

**17: 45h.: “EU General Safety Directive and Rapex System”**

Françoise Maniet, lecturer in law, Law Department, senior researcher, Groupe de recherche en droit international et compare de la consommation (GREDICC)

**18:30h.: “Creation of an alert system in Mexico by PROTLCUEM (Mexico-EU Free Trade Support Program)”**

Thierry Woller, Expert in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Tools, Long Term Expert in the Mexico-EU PROTLCUEM Free Trade Support Program in Mexico (PROTLCUEM)

**19:00h.: Presentation of selected paper(s)**

19:30h: Cocktail

**27th May 2009**

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**Education as a key in the knowledge of consumer rights**

**10:00h: “People ´s Law School: evaluation and perspectives”**

Richard Alderman, Vice-Dean of Law School, Director of Center for Consumer Law, academic correspondent of the Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection in the Houston University (USA)

10:45h.: Coffee-break

**11:15h: “Establishment of consumer law in Brasil and Mercosur”**

Claudia Lima Marques, Professor of Private International Law, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre (Brasil)

**12:00h.: Discussion board**

Chair: Fernando Toyos Rugarcía, General Director of Trade and Consumer Affairs, Government of Cantabria (Spain)

- Circe Almanzar, Executive Vicepresident of the Association of Industries of Dominican Republic.
- Ruperto Patiño, Director of Law School, academic correspondent of the Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection in the National Autonomous University of Mexico (Mexico).
- Samuel Arias, Judge (Dominican Republic)
- Rosalía Sosa, Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)

**13:00h.: Presentation of selected paper(s)**

**Tourists ´s legal protection and its effects on the economic development of Latinamerican nations.**

**16:00h.: “Protection of tourist when purchasing a package holidays”**

Julio Álvarez Rubio, Professor of Commercial Law, Academic Head of Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection, University of Cantabria (Spain).

**16:45h.: “Reform of timesharing in the european area”**

Vicente Gozalo López, Professor of Commercial Law, University of Cantabria, Director of Cantabria Consumers Agency (Spain).

**17:30h.: Discussion board**

Chair: Julio Álvarez Rubio

- Yudith Castillo, Legal Advisor of Puntacana Resort & Club.
- Amelia Solórzano, Academic correspondent of Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection in the University of Guadalajara (Mexico).
- David de la Hoz, Autonomous University of Santo Domingo

**18:30h: Presentation of selected paper(s)**

*28th May 2009*

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**New problems in legal protection of consumers**

**09:00h: “Legal protection of consumers and the evolution of the food industry”**

Alicia de León Arce, Professor of Civil Law, academic correspondent of the Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection in the University of Oviedo (Spain)

**09:45h: “Consumer Electronic Contracts: Emerging Legal Issues”**

Christine Riefa, Director of Consumer and Commercial Law Research Group, academic correspondent of the Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection in the University of Brunel, West London (United Kingdom).

10:30h.: Coffee-break

**11:00h.: “Future perspectives in legal protection of consumers”**

Gilles Paisant, Professor of private law in the University of Saboy (France), Founder of the Center for consumer law and obligations, academic correspondent of the Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection in the University of Saboy (France).

**11:45h.: “User of medical services as a consumer”**

Jorge Tomillo, Full Professor of Commercial Law, Head of the Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection, University of Cantabria, Spain.

**12:30h.: “Prevention and consumer law: a referente to punishing damages”**

Oscar Ameal, Professor of Civil Law, judge in the National Civil Justice Court, academic correspondent of the Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection in the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina)

**13:15h.: Discussion board**

Chair: Jorge Tomillo Urbina

- Ovidio Parra, academic correspondent of the Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection in San Carlos University (Guatemala).
- Rodrigo Cooper, academic correspondent of the Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection in the University of Chile (Chile).
- Marialma Berrino, Professor of Civil and Constitutional Law, University of Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- Santo Inocencio Mercedes, academic correspondent of the Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection in the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic).
- Angelica Noboa, Lawyer, Professor of Competition Law in the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (Dominican Republic)

- Ramiro Contreras Acevedo, University of Guadalajara (Mexico), associate researcher of the Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection

**14:15h.: Presentation of selected paper(s)**

**14:45h: Closing ceremony**

- Jorge Tomillo, Head of Euroamerican Chair for Consumers Legal Protection
- Franklyn García, Rector of Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

*Additional information, see: <http://www.unican.es/catprocon>*

*or email: [catprocon@unican.es](mailto:catprocon@unican.es)*