



NEWS FROM THE COMMISSION MIDDAY BRIEFING
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Tuesday, 10 January, 2012

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[Consumers: EU investigates consumer credit websites - a market underperforming for consumers](#)

Were you ever about to sign a contract for a personal loan, credit card, or other consumer credit and discovered that it was all working out more expensive than you had first expected? An EU-wide investigation of websites offering consumer credit took place to check whether consumers are receiving the information to which they are entitled under EU consumer law before signing a consumer credit contract. National enforcement authorities checked more than 500 websites across the 27 Member States plus Norway and Iceland. They flagged **70%** (393) of sites for further investigation in relation to the following main problems: the advertising did not include the required standard information; the offers omitted key information that is essential for making a decision; the costs were presented in a misleading way. National enforcement authorities will now contact financial institutions and credit intermediaries about suspected irregularities and ask them to clarify or take corrective action. The sweep operation checked in particular how business is applying the Consumer Credit Directive (recently transposed in Member States), which aims to make it easier for consumers to understand and compare credit offers.

[Rebuilding homes for Haitians - Two years on, Europe continues to deliver on its promises to Haiti](#)

On the eve of the second anniversary of the earthquake that struck Haiti, the European Commission launches today in Port-au-Prince a new housing programme to repair and rebuild safe homes to the benefit of more than 60 000 displaced people. This new €23 million programme will be implemented together with local communities, the municipalities and the Haitian Ministry for Public Works. It is part the part of the European Commission's action to support the country to recover from the disaster which claimed the lives of more than 220 000 people and affected 3 million others. The two years that followed the earthquake were no less challenging – Haiti was affected by Hurricane Tomas and is suffering from the worst cholera epidemics of the past century. The years ahead will not be easy either, but the long-term goals of stability and development are still fully valid to address Haiti's situation.

Transport Infrastructure: Commission makes €200 million available for key TEN-T projects

The European Commission launched today a Call for Proposals under the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) annual programme, making €200 million available to co-finance projects in several specific priority areas. The Annual Call will complement the funding already made available in June 2011 through the multi-annual programme in order to speed

up the completion of the TEN-T network and will help prepare the ground for future TEN-T policy developments. *For more information see* http://tentea.ec.europa.eu/en/apply_for_funding/follow_the_funding_process/annual_call_2011.htm

OTHER INFORMATION

- [EU investigates consumer credit websites - a market underperforming for consumers](#)
- [Employment and Social Situation Quarterly Review: December 2011 - EU employment down and rising social concerns across Europe](#)
- [EU successfully issued long-term bond with 30y maturity, funding loans of € 3 billion for Ireland and Portugal - rediffusion](#)

Source: European Commission - News from the Communication Directorate General's midday briefing. --- [For more information](#) [click here](#)

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