



Glenis Willmott MEP Labour's Leader in Europe



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Your sack full of consumer rights

If you find that some of your Christmas presents this year aren't exactly as promised, remember you've got a sack full of Europe-wide consumer rights.



Particularly relevant at Christmas time:

- The right to a refund when returning goods bought "at a distance" within seven days of receiving them.
- If you get cold feet after signing a mobile phone contract, you have the right to withdraw from the contract within seven days of agreeing to it.
- The right to have faulty goods repaired or replaced if they break within two years.
- The right to a refund where goods bought online do not match their description.

Anyone who wants to know more about these or other rights, or who needs help enforcing them, should get in touch with



Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 or online at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

We can't just wait for a Political Spring

The easiest thing would be to put our heads under the duvet and wait till it was all over.

I don't mean our reaction to the recent bitterly cold spell, when once again Britain has proved that grinding to a shuddering halt is one thing we do particularly well.

I refer instead to the **political** winter; to the defeat in the general election, which means that now only 4 of the EU's 27 member states in the EU have a socialist or social democrat input into government; to the slow haemorrhaging of council seats culminating this year with the loss of our remaining County Councils including Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire; while in Brussels following the disaster of the 2009 Euro elections, just 13 Labour MEPs try to cover 21 European Parliamentary committees, with all the additional legislative work arising from the Lisbon Treaty.

It is grim indeed. And it is only natural to batten down the hatches, sit back, and wait, like Mr McCawber, for something to turn up.

But we can't afford to do that. More precisely, the people we represent and who we work for, can't afford for us to do that. It is their jobs, their services, their benefits which are going to the wall.

And in May, we have a massive opportunity to win back council seats across the East Midlands and to win mayoral elections.

So as we near the start of 2011 I'm calling for a co-ordinated **Labour** New Year's resolution. Let's all make the decision, however icy the atmosphere, to get out from under the duvet.



Glenis

Alzheimers

Glenis has welcomed a decision for Alzheimer's and other dementias to be treated as European health priorities, and for the 'dementia dimension' to be included in plans for future jobs and growth, creating vital jobs in the care sector. She also called for extra research into the part played by diet and nutrition.

"Alzheimer's is the main cause of disability amongst the elderly." She said.



Government slammed

Glenis has heavily criticized the British Government's failure to join in tackling human trafficking.

An agreement on new rules to combat trafficking was struck without a British voice at the negotiating table because the UK government opted out of the plans.

Glenis said: "It is a total abdication of responsibility. Other countries work together to tackle this awful activity, yet our government is nowhere to be seen."