The European Union protects consumers against dishonest business practices in connection with contracts negotiated away from business premises.

**ACT**


**SUMMARY**

The Directive applies to contracts between a trader and a consumer relating to the provision of goods or services concluded:

- during an excursion organised by the trader away from his business premises;
- during a visit by a trader to the consumer’s home;
- at the consumer’s place of work where the visit does not take place at the express wish of the consumer.

The Directive also applies to:

- contracts for the supply of goods or services other than those concerning which the consumer requested the visit, if the consumer could not have known that this supply formed part of the trader’s commercial activities;
- contractual or non-contractual offers by the consumer, whether they are bound or not by this offer before the conclusion of the contract.

**Contracts exempt from the Directive**

The Directive shall not apply to contracts relating to:

- the construction, sale, or rental of, or rights relating to, immovable property. However, this Directive shall apply to the repair, delivery and incorporation of goods within immovable property;
- the supply of foodstuffs, beverages or goods intended for current consumption in the household and supplied by regular roundsmen;
- the supply of goods or services when the contract is concluded on the basis of a trader’s catalogue which the consumer may read in the absence of the trader, if there is intended to be continuity of contact between the parties in view of the transaction, and where the consumer is informed of their rights to return the goods or to cancel the contract within a period of seven days;
- insurance contracts;
- contracts for securities.

**Exemptions from the Directive**

Member States may decide not to apply the Directive to contracts of an amount lower than a pre-determined sum. In addition, they may apply an exemption to secondary contracts which have a direct link to the main contract for the supply of goods or services.

**References**

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<th>Act</th>
<th>Date of entry into force</th>
<th>Final date for implementation in the Member States</th>
<th>Official Journal</th>
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**RELATED ACTS**


Directive 85/577/EEC is incorporated by the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA). It thus applies to Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

See also

- The website of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection.

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