Written by Bob Snyder 31 July 2008

European Union's consumer chief proposes to make it easier and safer for the bloc's 490 million consumers to shop online in any corner of the 27-nation EU.

Some 150 million EU citizens click on Amazon.com and EBay for shopping but only 30 million buy goods and services from another EU state, spending an average 800 euros per head.



EU Consumer Commissioner Meglena Kuneva will also start work on EU rules to stamp out unfair commercial practices in online retailing. Kuneva wants a more consistent approach to rights and practices, from cooling-off periods to guarantees.

" A single, simple set of core rights and obligations will make it easier for consumers and business to buy and sell across Europe, " Kuneva said in a speech in London and made available to the media.

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