

Euroconsumers Secures Free 1-Year Windows 10 Security Update Extension in the EEA

Brussels, 22/09/2025 — Euroconsumers announces that, [following more than two years of advocacy](#), Microsoft will provide a free one-year extension of Extended Security Updates (ESU) for Windows 10 users in the European Economic Area (EEA), until October 13, 2026. While welcome, this extension remains insufficient, as millions of functional devices will still be at risk of premature obsolescence, undermining sustainability and refurbishment efforts.

Importantly, this extension **does not require engagement with Microsoft Rewards, OneDrive, or other tied services**, addressing [Euroconsumers' main concern](#) under the **Digital Markets Act (DMA)** regarding fair access to essential security updates.

Euroconsumers' survey of 3,500+ consumers shows that **22% still use Windows 10 on PCs from 2017 or earlier that cannot be upgraded to Windows 11**, meaning these devices could be discarded in 2026 not due to performance, but due to policy. This decision also undermines refurbishment and the viability of second-hand devices, as continued software support is critical to keeping devices safe and usable, as outlined in Euroconsumers' Position Paper: [How good is 'as good as new'?](#).

While this is an important step for consumers, Euroconsumers will continue to:

- Advocate for free updates beyond 2026
- Uphold EU consumer rights
- Promote sustainable and durable digital products

“The free extension is an important step for consumers, but the broader challenge of ensuring fair, durable, and sustainable digital markets remains. We need products to last longer and live a second life through refurbishment, instead of artificially been shut off by lacking software updates,” said Els Bruggeman, Head Policy and Enforcement at Euroconsumers.

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About Euroconsumers

Gathering five national consumer organizations and giving voice to a total of more than 6 million people in Italy, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, and Brazil, Euroconsumers is the world's leading consumer group in innovative information, personalized services, and defense of consumer rights. Our European member organizations are part of the umbrella network of BEUC, the European Consumer Organization. Together, we advocate for EU policies that benefit consumers in their daily lives.