

# Consumer affairs

---

## INDICATION OF PRICES

Directive [98/6/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers

### Objective

The Directive aims to provide a transparent and simple indication of the price of any given good for the consumer.

### Relevance for the hospitality industry

This legislation potentially affects almost all products offered for sale by traders. The Directive also allows Member States to choose whether services are covered by the provisions of the Directive.

### State of progress

The Directive was adopted on 16 February 1998. Member States were given until 18 March 2000 to adopt the necessary transposition measures.

In 2006, the Commission released a Communication on the implementation of the Directive.

In addition, the Commission launched a questionnaire in February 1996 on the transparency of prices for services.

### Content

The Directive stipulates that the selling price and the price per unit of measurement must be offered by traders to consumers in an unambiguous, easily identifiable and clearly legible manner.

Member States may decide not to apply this provision for products supplied in the course of the provision of a service. HOTREC wrote to the Commission for verification that the products placed at the disposal of hotel, restaurant and café customers do not fall in the scope of this Directive. The Commission never provided the necessary clarification.

Member States may also decide to waive the obligation to provide the unit price if such indication would not be useful because of the nature of the products.

For a summary of the Directive on the indication of prices, you can visit the [SCADPlus](#) website (European Commission).

### Official references

Directive [98/6/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers, O.J. L 80 of 18.03.98

See also:

Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the implementation of Directive 1998/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 on consumer protection in the indication of prices of products offered to consumers, [COM\(2006\) 325 final](#) of 21 July 2006

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Consumer Policy Strategy 2002-2006, [COM\(2002\) 0208](#) of 07.05.2002

Questionnaire on consumer information on the price of services, February 1996.