

PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

(TC-01-12-01-2)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executing agency:	Trade Department (<i>Dirección General de Comercio</i> , DGC) of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Uruguay	
Final beneficiaries:	The main beneficiaries of the project will be: (i) the country's consumers and businesses, which will benefit from a greater flow of information on the scope of their rights and obligations in light of the new regulatory framework for the support of competition and consumer protection; and (ii) institutions responsible for implementing legislation, i.e. the official sector, represented by the Trade Department, the <i>Intendencias</i> (municipalities) and the courts at all levels, which will now be more responsive and better equipped with new conceptual and analytical tools for performing their functions.	
Amount and source:	Financing: MIF (Window I):	US\$490,000
	Local counterpart:	US\$320,000
	Total:	US\$810,000
Objectives:	<p>The general objective (the goal) of the project is to enhance competition and consumer protection in the Uruguayan market. The specific objective (the purpose) is to support the consolidation and strengthening of the country's system for the defense of competition and consumers (SDCC).</p> <p>The project contains three components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the regulatory framework and its enforcement: this component seeks to strengthen the response capacity of agencies responsible for enforcing legislation and formulating policies in defense of competition and consumers. Information and training for civil society: this component will support the dissemination of information and training of civil society leaders involved in the SDCC (the productive sector, business associations and consumer groups). 	

- c. **Development of institutional mechanisms for analytical and methodological support:** this component will develop, within the DGC, an analytical capacity to guide the application of policies relating to domestic and international market behavior, and to facilitate access to relevant information for consumer groups.

Execution and disbursement periods:

Execution period: 30 months
Disbursement period: 36 months

Conditions precedent to the first disbursement:

Prior to the first disbursement from the loan, the DGC will submit:
(i) evidence that the Project Coordination Unit has been established;
(ii) evidence that the SDCC Monitoring and Evaluation Committee has been established, its members have been appointed and its basic bylaws have been approved; and (iii) the Annual Operations Plan for the first year of execution.

Exceptions to Bank policy:

None

Environmental and social review and proposed measures:

The Environment and Social Impact Committee (CESI) reviewed the summary of this operation on April 4, 2003 (meeting 12/03), and found no need for an evaluation or special measures. It should be noted, however, that the consumer groups that figure among the beneficiaries of the project are for the most part led by women and are broadly representative of the sector.