Focus

Collective redress in the Member States of the European Union

Dear Reader,

In a globalised world with ever-increasing cross-border trade, the same damage caused by business activities is likely to affect consumers in more than one country. However, as clearly illustrated by the ‘dieselgate’ scandal, consumers encounter difficulties when seeking compensation in cross-border mass harm situations. In these cases, access to justice and protection remain unequal as collective redress mechanisms are not consistently available across the EU.

Last April, the Commission finally presented a proposal for a Directive on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers.

The study on collective redress delivered by our Policy Department provided valuable legal support to the legislative work of the JURI committee on this file.

Pavel Svoboda, MEP
Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs

Collective redress in the Member States of the EU
Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs

National rules on collective redress vary greatly across the EU. This heterogeneity is problematic as not all European citizens are granted the same level of protection.

The study requested by the JURI committee looks at the current state of play of collective redress at national level and examines the Commission’s proposal for a Directive on representative actions. It also provides a number of policy recommendations paying particular attention to cross-border cases.

Forthcoming events

ITRE Just energy transition, an opportunity for EU industries
Workshop - 19 FEB 2019 - 10:30-12:30 - JAN 02Q002

PECH Environmental, social and economic sustainability of eel stocks
Workshop - 19 FEB 2019 - 11:00-12:30 - JAN 04Q001

INTA EU Investment protection after the ECJ opinion on Singapore
Workshop - 20 FEB 2019 - 14:00-15:30

PETI Conflict of Interest in the EU Institutions
Workshop - 2 APR 2019

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Recent publications

**Democratic accountability and budgetary control of NGOs**
Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs

The accessibility and quality of Commission data on grant funding has improved significantly since 2010. There have also been positive developments since 2016, and further developments are planned. However, there are still significant constraints that prevent meaningful analysis of grant funding data, and which must undermine policy formulation and monitoring.

**The scope and mandate of EU Special Representatives (EUSRs)**
Policy Department for External Affairs

The position of EUSRs in the EU’s external action merits further analysis, especially in light of the changes brought about by the Treaty of Lisbon (EEAS, EU Delegations). The study requested by AFET committee looks at the scope and mandate of EU Special Representatives (EUSRs) with a view to explore and provide an analysis on their role. The authors make recommendations regarding the mandates and functions, the appointment and selection, and the institutional integration of the EUSRs.

**Employment barriers in border regions**
Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies

Research shows a broad consensus on the persistence of diverse, but interrelated barriers to cross-border workers. The study, provided by policy Department A at the request of the EMPL Committee, outlines trends and drivers of cross-border mobility. It then looks in more depth at barriers to it, before assessing measures - including legislation, key programmes and initiatives, and funding structures - adopted at EU level to address them.

**Overtourism: impact and possible policy responses**
Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies

Avoiding overtourism requires custom-made policies in cooperation between destinations’ stakeholders and policymakers. This study addresses the complex phenomenon of overtourism in the EU. By focusing on a set of case studies, the study reports on overtourism indicators, discusses management approaches implemented within different destinations and assesses policy responses.

Forthcoming publications

- **CULT** Science and scientific literacy as an educational challenge - February 2019
- **SEDE** EU preparedness against CBRN weapons - February 2019
- **CONT** Appointment procedures in the EU Institutions - March 2019
- **FEMM** Women’s role in peace processes - March 2019
- **ECON** Competition issues in the FinTech area - presentation summary - April 2019

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