

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3158/00  
by Gerhard Hager (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Out-of-court settlement offices

In the context of the EEJ-NET (European Extra-Judicial Network) project, the Commission is currently working, with all the alternative dispute settlement offices notified by the Member States, and with representatives of the Member States, to discuss the practical problems of cross-border disputes settlement. In the light of the Commission proposal for a Council Regulation on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, together with the amendments adopted by the European Parliament particularly as regards the creation of out-of-court settlement mechanisms, I should like to ask the Commission the following:

1. What stage has the work in the EEJ-NET reached?
2. Have the organisations involved come to any agreement on the creation of clearing houses?
3. In what form is the Commission cooperating with non-European bodies similarly concerned with the creation of out-of-court settlement mechanisms in the context of e-commerce, and which bodies are these?
4. Does the Commission intend within the foreseeable future to replace – in respect of e-commerce - its Recommendation 98/257/EC<sup>1</sup>, on the principles applicable to the bodies responsible for out-of-court settlement of consumer disputes, with a directive?
5. What does the Commission feel about the idea of creating a single, EU-wide out-of-court settlement office for e-commerce?
6. Does the Commission have any views on the idea of creating a single EU-wide court for the settlement of disputes in the e-commerce field, which would continue to operate according to the national law applicable to each case?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 115, 17.4.1998, p. 31