

**Question for written answer E-004121/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Harald Vilimsky (ID), Georg Mayer (ID)

Subject: Lugano Convention

The Commission is refusing to allow the United Kingdom admittance to the Lugano Convention, which deals with cross-border legal disputes. The Convention extends the validity of the corresponding EU Regulation No 1215/2012 (Regulation on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters) to the member states of the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area. For the Brexit transition period, London and Brussels agreed that the Brussels I Regulation would continue to be applied for cross-border civil law matters; however, the transition period came to an end on 31 December 2020, and with it, so did the validity of the statutory regulation for the United Kingdom. This gives rise to the following questions:

1. How will matters affecting consumers in areas such as antitrust and competition law be dealt with in future if the Commission intends to regulate relations with the United Kingdom in judicial affairs on the basis of the Hague Conventions of 2005 and 2019?
2. Why is the United Kingdom being refused access to the Convention yet it is granted to other countries such as Iceland, Norway and Switzerland? Is this intended as a disincentive to other countries which might also be considering leaving the EU?