

**Question for oral answer O-000016/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 136

**Adrián Vázquez Lázara**

on behalf of the Committee on Legal Affairs

**Subject:** The importance of civil justice for the economic recovery post COVID-19

Civil justice is not in the frontline in the response to the current COVID-19 crisis. However, the economic downturn is likely to have as a result in a large number of civil disputes. This is a common pattern in an economic downturn and happened for instance after the Credit crunch. As a consequence, capital that could otherwise contribute to the economic recovery is tied down in court cases. The speed at which such cases can be resolved is thus an element of importance for the successful recovery of our economies.

Parliament adopted during its 2014-2019 term two reports that had as one of their aims to accelerate the settlement of civil procedures, the resolution of 4 July 2017 with recommendations to the Commission on common minimum standards of civil procedure in the European Union (2015/2084(INL)) with Emil Radev as rapporteur and the resolution of 13 December 2018 with recommendations to the Commission on expedited settlement of commercial disputes (2018/2079(INL)) with Tadeusz Zwiefka as rapporteur.

Does the Commission intend to follow up the two Parliament legislative own-initiative reports with legislative proposals in such time that it can help the economic recovery from the current crisis?

What other initiatives does the Commission intend to take within the area of civil justice so that a faster settlement of commercial disputes can be achieved?

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Lapses: 04/06/2021