



European Commission

Competition

Conference: Introduction of Class Actions in Belgium
Brussels, 25 March 2011

EU Policy on Collective Redress

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COLLECTIVE REDRESS IN EUROPE TODAY

- Many EU Member States have some procedures for collective claims or are considering to introduce such procedures
- **Wide variety** throughout the EU on collective compensatory redress:
 - **Substantive scope**
 - **Who can claim – on behalf of whom**



EU POLICY INITIATIVES

- How to improve **access to justice** for European **citizens and businesses** harmed by breaches of EU law?
- **Matter of fundamental rights:**
 - Right to effective remedy
 - Principle of effective judicial protection
- **Matter of effective enforcement of EU law**



EU POLICY INITIATIVES

- Need for **collective redress** in cases of mass harm?
- 2008 White Paper on **antitrust damages actions**:
 - number of policy suggestions, mostly competition-specific
 - individual + collective damages actions
- 2008 Green Paper on **consumer collective redress**



TOWARDS A COHERENT APPROACH

- Demand from the European Parliament (2009)
- Joint information note by Reding, Almunia and Dalli (2010)
- Launch of a **public consultation** on 4 February 2011:
‘Towards a coherent European approach to collective redress’



CONSULTATION GOALS

- To gather stakeholders' views on:
 - **practical experience** with collective redress systems that already exist in some Member States
 - **added value of collective redress** (in general or in concrete EU policy fields)
 - **general principles that should guide any EU initiatives on collective redress**



MAIN TOPICS

- How to achieve **effective and efficient redress**?
- What **safeguards** are needed to avoid abusive litigation?
- Who should have **standing** to bring collective actions?
- How to approach the issue of **funding**?
- Role of **collective consensual (out of court) dispute resolution**
- **Enforcement** of collective damages awards **across the EU**



HOW CAN YOU SHAPE THE POLICY?

- Send us your **comments** to the public consultation
(deadline: 30 April)
- Attend a **public hearing** on collective redress that will take place on
5 April
(deadline for applications: today)

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2011_collective_redress/index_en.html



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!