

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS

Directorate A: Civil justice  
Unit A.1: Civil justice policy

Directorate E; Consumers  
Unit E.2: Consumer and marketing law

Brussels, **15 AVR. 2016**  
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**Subject:** Evaluation study of national procedural laws and practices in terms of their impact on the free circulation of judgments and on the equivalence and effectiveness of the procedural protection of consumers under EU consumer law

To whom it may concern

The Consortium of European Research Institutions and Experts led by the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law has been commissioned by the European Commission (DG Justice and Consumers) to carry out a study which aims to evaluate the national procedural laws and practices of the Member States in terms of their impact on the free circulation of judgments and on the equivalence and effectiveness of the procedural protection of consumers under EU consumer law.

The study will examine whether and where obstacles to mutual trust exist and, in the affirmative, the scale of such obstacles, thereby helping to identify where mutual trust needs to be further enhanced in line with the European Council Conclusions of 26/27 June 2014<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the study will address possible obstacles to legal certainty when businesses and citizens engage in cross-border litigation.

The study will also evaluate if and to what extent national procedural laws and practices ensure the procedural protection of EU consumers and whether these rules and practices satisfy requirements stemming from the rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Union concerning the principles of effectiveness and equivalence, and the obligation for an ex-officio assessment of compliance with EU consumer law.

The results of the study will contribute to possible future policy actions of the European Commission in the area of procedural law and consumer protection.

The success of this study will depend, to a large extent, on the quantity and quality of data and information that the contractor is able to gather from a wide range of stakeholders, including national justice administrations, the judiciary, lawyers,

<sup>1</sup> EUCO 79/14 [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/143478.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/143478.pdf)

enforcement officials and experts. The assignment is being carried out through various methods including a survey and an interview programme.

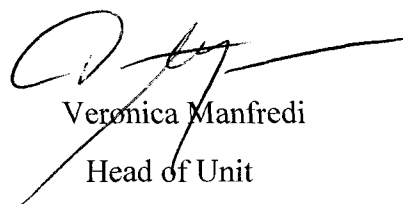
The European Commission would be very grateful for your assistance to the Consortium in the process of gathering information.

Should you have any questions concerning this study please contact Mr Jacek Garstka (jacek.garstka@ec.europa.eu) or Mr Eric Degerbeck (eric.degerbeck@ec.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,



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