

PRESS RELEASE

Common Frame of Reference: EUROCHAMBRES calls for more transparency in consultation process

Chambers urged European leaders, who will meet on 8 July at the London Conference on European Contract Law organised by the UK Presidency, to improve the efficiency and transparency of the Common Frame of Reference (CFR).

“Elaborated as a tool for improving the quality of European legislation on contract law, the Common Frame of Reference is very likely to prepare the way for negotiations on a European Civil Code”, EUROCHAMBRES Secretary General Arnaldo Abruzzini said, “The European Commission should clearly state if this is the case or not and clarify the objective of the CFR as well as the legal basis!”

Improvement of the consultation procedure

Furthermore, business requests that the consultation process be opened up. Currently, the access to working documents of the CFR platform is limited to a small group of experts. Large representative associations which are part of the consultation group, like EUROCHAMBRES, are not allowed to disseminate the information through their network.

“It is of great importance to give interested parties the opportunity to fully participate in the consultation. European Chambers fear that a 26th legal system will be added to the 25 systems which already exist. The best way to allay these doubts is to encourage their involvement at the earliest stage”, Mr Abruzzini said.

Importance of the principle of freedom of contract

The principle of freedom of contract is of key importance for all business activities. Restrictions to that principle must only be used when absolutely necessary - i. e. to hinder the distortion of the market competition, EUROCHAMBRES stressed.

*FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr. Vincent Tilman, tel.: +32 2-282 08 67, tilman@eurochambres.be
PRESS CONTACT: Ms. Tosca Purr, tel.: +32 2-282 08 53, purr@eurochambres.be*

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