



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

COMPETITIVENESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Sectoral Committee
Weekly Update
22.01.10

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Quantification of harm caused by infringements of the EU antitrust rules

The success of antitrust damages actions and full compensation of victims rests not only upon the existence of an effective legal framework for compensation, but also on overcoming complex issues related to quantification of harm suffered by those victims. In order to assist national courts and parties involved in antitrust damages actions, the Commission announced, in its 2008 White Paper, its intention to draw up guidance for the quantification of harm in antitrust damages actions. As part of the groundwork for preparing the guidance, the Commission has commissioned an external study on the quantification of harm suffered by victims of antitrust infringements. The study has been prepared by a group of economic consultants and lawyers and has been published on the competition website.

To view the study go to:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/antitrust/actionsdamages/quantification_study.pdf

18 month programme of the Council of the EU prepared by the future Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies

The Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies have prepared a programme covering the period January 2010 to June 2011. The priorities in the field of **competitiveness** include:

- Further strengthening of the **Single Market**
- **SMEs**: give high priority to the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Small Business Act and its Action Plan, and take SMEs' policies into account within the framework of the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy.
- strengthen **IPR protection**
- **Research & Development & Innovation**: take full account of the importance of Research & Development & Innovation in the renewal of the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy, and ensure the full development and consolidation of the European Research Area (ERA)
- **Customs**: continue negotiations at bilateral and international levels
- **Tourism**: the Presidencies will support coordinated action on policies and EU measures regarding the tourism sector and tourism activities, and promote a Socially Responsible and Solidarity European Tourism Model, as well as a set of conditions and principles or codes of good practices, so as to make tourism development compatible with economic, social and environmental sustainability.



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In the field of **consumer protection** the three Presidencies aim to:

- prioritise the proposed **Directive on consumer rights**
- further the work on the revision of the **Directive on package travel**
- negotiate and conclude **agreements between the EU and the US** on the enforcement of **consumer protection laws** and on cooperation and information exchange in the area of consumer product safety
- carry out a mid-term **evaluation of the EU action in the field of consumer policy** (2007-2013)
- encourage the **integration of consumer protection aspects in other policies**.