

FORUM
on Protecting and Facilitating Investment
in the Single Market
28 June 2022
09:00 - 16:30

European Commission
Berlaymont, Robert Schuman room,
Rue de la Loi 200, 1049, Bruxelles
and via "Interactio"

Questions to panellists
PANEL 2

1. FIRST ROUND OF QUESTIONS

- [REDACTED]
 - Do you believe that the instruments of the EU toolbox adequately represent the business perspective in the Single Market and can address some of the issues your members encountered during a cross-border investment? If so, which instrument? Any suggestions for improving these instruments?
- [REDACTED]:
 - WKÖ contributed to the 2022 Rule of Law targeted consultation. In this regard, what is your feedback on the process [coordinating the input for your members] and the outcome? What is the noticeable advantage to have data on investments protection issues in the Rule of Law report and what still requires improvement for the Rule of Law Report to be more impactful?
- [REDACTED]:

- Among other things, consumers benefit from a good investment environment and an increased competition. The entry of new investors in domestic markets can have beneficial spill over effects on consumer welfare. Would you see an interest of BEUC in contributing to the feedback mechanisms? If yes, which tool would be the most appropriate for addressing consumers' and civil societies' issues?
- [REDACTED]:
 - What instrument/procedure/tool does the Czech Republic use to collect data on investment protection and improve the national investment environment? Any best practice to share?

2. SECOND ROUND OF QUESTIONS:

- [REDACTED]:
 - The current SOLVIT network helps businesses with problems related to the four freedoms of the single market in cross border situations. Some of these cases are linked to investments and could qualify already as 'investment protection'. (*examples: difficulties for an Italian company to continue its activities operating a landfill in Poland, or language requirements to buy land in Lithuania*). However as SOLVIT is an informal tool, it can not help with claims for damages for example. The centres are also part of the national administration which is on the one hand their unique selling point, but can also be seen as not being independent enough from the government. What

are for you essential elements for a tool to help investors protect their investments?

- [REDACTED]:
 - Do you have any suggestions on ways to ensure that legitimate interests of consumers are duly taken into account, also in the feedback mechanisms (in the sections relevant for investment protection)?
- [REDACTED]:
 - What existing tools [other than the Rule of Law which you mentioned already] can help investors with their issues mentioned during the first roundtable? Could you give us some examples? Are they fit for purpose or could we improve them?
 - What functionalities and characteristics should a tool that helps investors protect their investment need to have to effectively fulfil that task from potential users' perspective?
- [REDACTED]:
 - From your prospective as business confederation as well as from the perspective of your members, is there any difficulty in actively contributing to the feedback mechanisms? What are the "conditions" for BusinessEurope to be willing to make the effort and contribute to the feedback mechanisms?