



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate General Internal Market and Services

Deputy Director General

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**Subject: Investor Workshop on Investment Protection in the EU
Brussels 17 December 2018**

Dear [REDACTED]

It is my pleasure to invite you to a workshop on investment protection in the EU, organised by my Directorate General on 17 December 2018 in Brussels and I would like to personally thank you for accepting to participate in one of the panel discussions. You will find the provisional programme attached to this invitation.

The workshop will take place in the context of the Commission Communication on "*Protection of intra-EU investment*"¹ adopted on 19 July 2018 and will also cover certain consequences of the recent *Achmea* judgment. The Communication aims to strengthen the business environment for EU investors. While EU law may not solve all problems investors can face in their activities, the Communication clarifies to what extent EU law protects EU investors' rights and how they can enforce those rights before national administrations and courts.

The workshop's objectives are twofold: raising investors' awareness of their rights under EU law as laid out in the Communication of 19 July 2018, as well as giving an opportunity for companies to provide feedback on their practical experiences with cross-border investments in the EU.

The workshop will bring together investors and investor associations from various sectors as well as academia, representatives from the judiciary and Commission officials. It will be chaired by Mr. Mario Nava, Director DG FISMA B and will provide participants with the opportunity to contribute to the panel discussions. Investors' feedback on their experiences when investing in other Member States will be welcome.

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4528_en.htm

Panel 1 on substantive rights investors have under EU law: *How does EU law protect investments?* This panel will focus on investors' practical experiences in exercising the fundamental freedoms of the EU Single Market and the protection they enjoy under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights such as the right to property, the freedom to conduct a business, and the general principles of non-discrimination, proportionality, legal certainty and protection of legitimate expectations under EU law.

Panel 2 on enforcement of substantive rights under EU law: *How can investors enforce their rights under EU law?* This panel will focus on the available dispute settlement mechanisms under EU law and investors' experience in enforcing their rights before national administrations and courts in EU Member States.

The workshop will be held in English, but opportunities for interpretation can be explored on request. The workshop will take place in Conference Centre Albert Borschette (CCAB), Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels.

My colleagues [REDACTED] im.ec.europa.eu Tel. +32 229-[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] @ec.europa.eu, Tel. +32 229-[REDACTED] remain at your disposal! for further information and follow-up.

Yours faithfully,



John BERRIGAN

Enclosure:

Provisional Programme