

# MASS & CLASS LITIGATION DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE – SHALL COMPANIES TREMBLE AND CONSUMERS REJOICE?

It was all over the news on 9 May 2018: The German government plans to enact a law that would give certain qualified institutions the right to raise claims for declaratory judgments on behalf of groups of consumers. Other European countries have either already enacted similar laws or are planning to do so. The European Commission has recently presented its proposal to amend the current legislation in this regard in order to strengthen the position of consumers affected by the wrongdoing of large companies. How will the measures taken by the EU Member States and the Commission change the litigation landscape?

Already under the current legal framework, groups of consumers have raised group claims e.g. against VW in Germany and Facebook in Austria. In the UK, a class action has been filed against Mastercard.

## The panelists are:

- **Dr. Fabian Reuschle**  
Judge at Landgericht Stuttgart and  
“Vater des KapMuG”
- **Dr. Otmar Lell**  
Teamleader Law and Trade at Verbraucherzentrale  
Bundesverband e.V.
- **Dr. Christoph A. Baus**  
Partner, Litigation & Trial Department,  
Latham & Watkins, Hamburg
- **Dennis Horeman**  
Partner, De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek,  
Amsterdam

**Moderators:** Heiko Heppner, J.D. (KU) (Dentons)  
and Jan K. Schäfer (King & Spalding)

Are the measures proposed by the German government and the European Commission a good idea? Will they help consumers and companies receive justice? Or will they create the feared “US-style class actions”, which are expressly to be avoided?

The litigation think tank ILEX would like to discuss these questions with you in a mixed German/English-language panel discussion on the occasion of its annual conference on:

**5 June 2018**

**from 2:00 PM onwards**

**in the Institute for Law and Finance (ILF) at the  
Goethe-University Frankfurt, DZ BANK Room,  
Theodor-W.-Adorno-Platz 3,  
60323 Frankfurt am Main.**

## Time Schedule:

2:00 PM	<b>Registration</b>
2:30 to 2:45 PM	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> by Dr. Rolf Friedewald (ILF) and Dr. Clemens-August Heusch (Nokia)
2:45 to 3:45 PM	<b>First Panel Discussion</b>
3:45 to 4:00 PM	<b>Coffee Break</b>
4:00 to 5:00 PM	<b>Second Panel Discussion</b>
5:00 PM	<b>Reception (Faculty Lounge)</b>

Please email [contact@ilex-exchange.com](mailto:contact@ilex-exchange.com)  
if you would like to participate.

**Participation fee is**  
EUR 50.00 for lawyers and  
EUR 25.00 for students/trainees.