



Ms Meglena Kuneva
Member of the
European Commission
200 rue de la Loi
1049 - Bruxelles

11 July 2007

Dear Commissioner,

RE: COMMISSION ACTION ON COLLECTIVE REDRESS

As you know BUSINESSEUROPE has been contributing to the debate you have launched on collective redress. We have already had the opportunity to let you have our viewpoint on this sensitive issue. BUSINESSEUROPE is sceptical about the need/added value of EU action in this area. In any event, we are of the strong view that it is premature to consider it at this stage.

First, we believe that the alleged problems at stake have not been clearly defined and evidenced. This is why, as a first step, we consider it crucial to assess the current situation in Member States thoroughly, and to clearly identify any problems that are faced by consumers regarding enforcement of their rights in the Internal Market. Once and when this has been done, then the next step should be to analyse any problems that might be encountered and understand their cause. It is only after this process that a discussion should start as to whether among the solutions to identified problems (if any) an EU course of action should be contemplated. This is all about better regulation and subsidiarity.

This is why we welcome the reflection period officially opened on 29 June with a conference in Leuven as well as your initiative of launching a study on the evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of collective redress mechanisms in the EU.

We hope that this study will give a clear picture of the current situation in Member States, and will bring further information as to the consumer situation in terms of redress. Redress is indeed very important for consumers and business is keen to ensure that relevant and efficient mechanisms exist and function well.

We will actively participate in this reflection period and will send you in a near future further thoughts on this important topic. We remain at your disposal should you wish to discuss these comments further and look forward to a fruitful dialogue with you and your services on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe de Buck