

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Brussels,
C/2011/ 5365

28 JUL. 2011

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank you for transmitting the opinion of the German Bundestag Parliament on the European Commission's Green Paper on policy options for progress towards a European Contract Law for consumers and businesses {COM(2010) 348 final}.

We appreciate the Bundestag's valuable contribution and take note of the opinions expressed therein.

The Commission will assess your contribution as well as those of the other respondents very carefully.

In its Green Paper, the European Commission sets out a variety of options to make contract law more coherent. This initiative is inspired by the fact that neither consumers nor businesses are currently able to reap the full benefits of the Single Market as the co-existence of national contract law regimes in the EU makes cross-border transactions more complex and costly. The common frame of reference is one of the options of the Green Paper aiming at improving the coherence of EU law.

Following on your query about the articulation with the Commission's Proposal for a Consumer Rights Directive, the Commission wishes to underline that the latter addresses some of the problems stemming from the co-existence of 27 different contract laws by simplifying and consolidating existing European legislation in the area of consumer law. The contributions will be published at http://ec.europa.eu/justice/news_consulting_0052_en.htm

Based on the outcome of the public consultation, the impact assessment and the data collected the Commission plans to decide on the follow-up to the Green Paper during the fourth quarter of 2011.

National Parliaments will of course be duly informed about the next steps.

Yours faithfully,