



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union

INVESTMENT AND COMPANY REPORTING

Free movement of Capital and application of EU law

Brussels, **31 OCT. 2018**

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**Subject: Invitation to participate in the Investor Workshop on Investment Protection in the EU – 17 December 2018**

Dear Madam or Sir,

The European Commission (DG FISMA) is organising an Investor Workshop on Investment Protection in the EU in Brussels on 17 December 2018. EU investors are invited to express interest in participating in this event.

The workshop will take place in the context of the Commission Communication on "Protection of intra-EU investment"<sup>1</sup> adopted on 19 July 2018 and will also touch upon 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 how EU law protects EU investors' rights and how investors can enforce these 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 legal professionals and Commission officials. Mr. John Berrigan, Deputy Director General of DG FISMA will deliver a keynote speech and the panels will be chaired by Mr. Mario Nava, Director at DG FISMA. Participants will have opportunities to contribute to two interactive discussion panels.

**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

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<sup>1</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-4528\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4528_en.htm)

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, as well as 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 demand. The workshop will take place in Conference Centre Albert Borschette (CCAB), Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels from 14.00 to 17.30 on 17 December. Please note that participation costs will not be covered.

Investors interested in participating are invited to contact: Ms. Simona Staikova-van Bommel ([simona.staikova@ec.europa.eu](mailto:simona.staikova@ec.europa.eu), tel. +32 229-55845) or Ms. Katja Friedrichsen ([katja.friedrichsen@ec.europa.eu](mailto:katja.friedrichsen@ec.europa.eu), tel. +32 229-96426) **by 15 November 2018.**

Please note that places are limited and registration is subject to confirmation by the organisers. When confirming places for participants the Commission services will take into account company size, coverage of different economic sectors, FDI and portfolio investment and geographic coverage in order to ensure a broad and balanced representation of investors.

Yours faithfully,



Anne-Françoise Mélot  
Head of Unit

Enclosure:                      Provisional Programme