



Brexit policy pessimism expressed by senior UK lawyers – St Gallen ICF

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The Chairman of the UK's Competition Appeal Tribunal and a barrister sketched a gloomy picture of the outlook of UK competition architecture post-Brexit in St Gallen today (27 April).

UK government representatives have made various contradictory statements, which are impossible to work out in practice, Peter Freeman told the International Competition Law Forum in the Swiss town of St Gallen.

The UK government has indicated that transitional regulatory measures will be implemented going forward relating to factual situations prior to 2019, Freeman said.

But at the same time it has indicated that European Courts will cease to have jurisdiction, he explained.

“These seem to me to be incompatible statements,” Freeman said, in reaction to a panel discussion on competition law and economics post Brexit.

Anneli Howard, a barrister at Monckton Chambers and former Référéndaire at the European Court of Justice, told the panel it was “a tragedy” that having contributed so much to the European system, the UK was now introducing “lots and lots of complications and creating a new architecture, which in the end will lead to the same outcome.”

In response to a question by the head of the French competition authority - Isabelle de Silva - Howard said she did not believe that the increased awareness of the Brexit difficulties among the business and legal community would have an impact on the end result of the political negotiation.

The average member of the public has little idea what is involved, and even “well-educated members from the leave camp are unwilling to listen to lawyers, so I can't perceive how that would work,” she said.

by Simon Van Dorpe in St Gallen



Sector: Other
Topics: Policy Developments

Grade: Confirmed

Agencies

European Commission - Directorate General For Competition (EC - DG Comp)
UK Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT)
European Commission
Government Of UK

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