Civil and commercial judicial cooperation, enforcement of judgments: Brussels I, Lugano Conventions

1999/0154(CNS) - 21/09/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the European Parliament's report, drafted by Diana WALLIS (ELDR, UK), a number of amendments to the Commission's initial proposal were agreed. The Commission's original clause on jurisdiction was retained, but an amendment was adopted that would restrict the right of consumers to sue foreign suppliers of goods or providers of services in their jurisdiction to 'active' Internet sites, i.e. sites which target the consumer's Member State. Further amendments call for the extensive use of extra-judicial dispute resolution so that the judicial system is considered inappropriate for consumer claims relating to transactions concluded on-line, especially where the parties are domiciled in different States, in view of the costs and delays entailed thereby and the stigma often associated with going to court. It is also suggested that extra-judicial dispute resolution schemes should be accredited and that the grant of trust marks by national authorities, trade and consumer associations and, possibly, the Commission itself should be conditional upon the site in question providing for an extra-judicial resolution system accredited under a scheme approved by the Commission.