

CARTEL DAMAGE CLAIMS

- CDC -

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Dear visitor,

In 2002, CDC Cartel Damage Claims SA was set up in Brussels as the first firm in Europe to bundle, analyse and pursue damage claims resulting from the infringement of antitrust law. Our ideas originally may have seemed strange to quite some members of the European 'antitrust family'. For years, massive threats and harsh comments have been daily companions of our work, not to mention the difficulties we have experienced in avoiding the legal pitfalls and overcoming the practical obstacles involved in transforming our concept into reality. The development of sophisticated yet practical tools for the collection of transaction data has been an important prerequisite of sound damage analysis. Explaining the CDC approach to cartel victims, setting up funding structures, recruiting a committed and qualified staff and pursuing court cases has been quite a challenge.

Times are changing. In recent years, the overall awareness of the tremendous damages caused by cartels to industries and market structures has intensified. The Court of the European Union and the European Commission, under the tutelage of former Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes, have played an important role in this respect, and have triggered substantial changes in the legal, judicial and social environment for private antitrust enforcement. Meanwhile, civil courts have also acknowledged the legitimate interests pursued by CDC. Many SMEs, as well as leading multinational industrial players from all over Europe, have become aware of the opportunities CDC can offer with regards to the successful enforcement of antitrust damage claims. Even former cartel members have recognized CDC's business model by agreeing to out-of-court settlements and/or cooperating through our Leniency PLUS⁺ concept. Overall the right of cartel victims to compensation at fair conditions is increasingly acknowledged across stakeholders. CDC is proud to have contributed to this change of mindset and is looking forward to continue developing constructive solutions for an ever more efficient private enforcement of antitrust damage claims.

It is especially important for me to thank all those who contributed to our work, particularly our business partners, the entire CDC staff and my fellow board members. Their faith, support and commitment over the past years has proven inspirational, forming the cornerstone of CDC's rapid development.

This website aims to increase the awareness of why fair compensation for damages sustained as a result of cartel activity is vital and how it can be achieved. We hope you find the following pages interesting!

Dr. Ulrich Classen