

## **Acknowledgement of receipt of a multiple complaint on an alleged breach by Germany of EU rules on enforcement of judgments**

**Reference number: CHAP(2020)1541**

The European Commission has received a large number of complaints about a decision of the German Federal Court of Justice refusing to enforce a judgment of the Court of Appeal of Kraków, in which it ruled that a German TV station violated the personal rights of a former prisoner of the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp by publishing on its website the phrase “Polish extermination camps”. The complaints allege an infringement of Council Regulation (EC) 44/2001 of 22 December 2000 on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters (Brussels I Regulation), which has been replaced by Regulation (EU) No 1215/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2012 on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters (Brussels Ia Regulation).

The Commission has entered these complaints in the central registry of complaints under reference number CHAP(2020)1541. Additional information about your complaint can be submitted to contact points listed [here](#), by quoting the above reference number.

Given the significant number of complaints it received on this subject, the Commission, with a view to responding swiftly and informing those concerned as well as potentially wider public interest in the issue raised by the complainants, is publishing this acknowledgment of receipt on the [dedicated page of the Europa website](#). The complainants will be informed, through the same channel, of the results of the Commission's examination of these complaints and of the follow-up that the Commission may decide to take.

The Commission's services will consider the complaint in the light of the applicable European Union law and in line with the enforcement priorities set in the [Commission Communication “EU law: Better Results through Better Application”<sup>1</sup>](#).

Please note that, if the Commission decides to act following your complaint, including by launching a formal infringement procedure, its general aim is to ensure that Member State laws are compliant with EU law and correctly applied. The submission of a complaint to the Commission may thus not resolve your specific and individual situation. In order to obtain redress, including compensation if warranted, you should take action at national level in the Member State concerned. Submitting a complaint to the Commission does not suspend the time limits for starting legal action under national law. The Commission may also, in the exercise of its discretion, decide not to open formal infringement procedures, even if it considers that a breach of EU law has occurred.

The Commission services will by default treat this multiple complaint in a confidential manner. Only in case a complainant opted for non-confidential treatment in the complaint form, the Commission departments may disclose the identity and any of the information submitted by that complainant to the authorities of the Member State against which you have made your complaint. The disclosure of complainant's identity by the Commission's services may in some cases be indispensable to the handling of the complaint.

A [specific privacy policy statement](#) applies in relation to complaint handling.

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<sup>1</sup> C(2016)8600.