

## **The European Order for Payment Regulation and its IT-based Implementation**

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Since December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008, citizens and businesses in Europe can pursue claims for payment by means of the European Order for Payment Regulation. The new regulation has the potential to become one of the most efficient and cost-effective tools to collect late payments across borders in Europe. European SMEs have pointed out quite clearly that late payments are among the TOP TEN problems they have in the common market. In the European Commission's public consultation regarding the Small Business Act in 2008, European SMEs have expressed their expectation, that EU-Institutions and Member States' governments present a practical solution soon.

An IT-based implementation of the regulation is the key to meet this expectation and to carry out the European promise of an easily accessible and uniform procedure for crossborder claims.

Austria and Germany have started a joint project to develop an IT-solution a year ago. The first release containing a case management system is already running in the competent courts. More releases are to follow in order to enable creditors to make their claims online in the future. The solution is strictly following the terms of the regulation. Accordingly it can – with modifications - be used in all courts having jurisdiction for European Order for Payment procedures.

All member States are invited to join the project to make it a true success of European E-Justice policy benefitting the judiciary, citizens and businesses.

The presentation will give information about the state of play in the Austrian-German project and outline the rationale behind this element of European E-Justice policy.