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**Innovating Business Courts: a European Outlook**

*Seminar organised by* [*Erasmus School of Law*](https://www.eur.nl/en/esl/) *under the ERC project ‘*[*Building EU Civil Justice*](http://www.euciviljustice.eu/)*’ (Erasmus University Rotterdam), the* [*Max Planck Institute for Procedural Law*](https://www.mpi.lu/home/) *Luxembourg, and the* [*Montaigne Centre*](https://www.uu.nl/en/research/montaigne-centre-for-judicial-administration-and-conflict-resolution) *for Judicial Administration and Conflict Resolution (Utrecht University)*

A number of Member States have recently established or are in the process of establishing specialised commercial courts to facilitate international business litigation. These initiatives can have a profound impact on the litigation landscape in Europe as well as on the efficiency and effectivity of justice systems. In February 2018, the French Ministry of Justice inaugurated the International Commercial Chamber within the Paris Court of Appeal. A few weeks later, the Dutch House of Representatives adopted the proposal creating the Netherlands Commercial Court (NCC), which will open its doors on 1 July 2018. In parallel, Belgium is discussing the creation of the Brussels International Business Court (BIBC), while an initiative has been launched in Germany to strengthen Frankfurt as a go-to point for commercial litigation in Europe (the Frankfurt Initiative).

Although these courts can contribute to an effective and more tailor-made resolution of complex and international business disputes, they also create new challenges for judges, litigants, and the civil justice system as a whole. The objective is to discuss these initiatives, in particular the novelties in the court administration and the procedural rules; to exchange views on the possible impact on international commercial and complex litigation; and to reflect on the challenges ahead. The seminar will bring together academics, policy makers, practitioners, business representatives from different Member States.

**When?** Tuesday 10 July 2018, from 13.30 till 18.30 hrs

**Where?** Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam (Room CT-1)

**For whom?** Practitioners, policymakers, and academics that have an interest in the recent developments of international commercial courts in the EU, and in the challenges they may pose.