

NCC and other European commercial courts



As English-language commercial courts have been established across Europe, there are new options for lawyers to consider. This fact sheet provides a quick overview, looking at commercial courts in EU jurisdictions and examining efficiency, cost, use of English, appeals, digitisation and the enforceability of judgments in the EU.

The results are listed in the table below. Details on each court are included after the table.

- + indicates a positive outcome
- indicates a negative outcome
- ± indicates a mixed result
- ? indicates that it is unknown or uncertain

Paris Commercial Court

(Les chambres internationales du tribunal de commerce et de la cour d'appel de Paris)

- Efficiency: 16th place on the 2024 EU Justice Scoreboard (Civil Cases; Figure 6); a specific set of Rules of Procedure is available (Protocol on Procedural Rules Applicable to the International Chamber of the Paris Commercial Court)
- Proceedings in English: hearings and exhibits only; documents must be submitted in French and the judgment is in French, but an English translation can be supplied at the parties' expense
- Costs: low court fee (€ 235); lawyers' rates are mid-range
- Digital: no
- Appeal: yes, but only certain elements are in English
- Enforcement in the EU: excellent, due to EU Regulation Brussels I-bis.

	London	Paris	Frankfurt	Netherlands
World Ranking (WJP Civil Justice)	21	26	5	4
Efficiency	-	-	±	+
Proceedings in English	+	±	±	+
Costs	-	+	-	+
Digital	+	-	-	+
Appeal	±	±	-	+
Enforcement	-	+	+	+

London Commercial Court (LCC)

(The Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice)

- Efficiency: the length of discovery procedures has an impact on the efficiency of the proceedings; the UK is ranked 16th on the WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2019 (which is the most recent one); the Commercial Courts Guide applies, which is not tailored to international proceedings
- Proceedings in English: yes
- Costs: low court fee (£ 10,000), but the lawyers' fees are in the higher range (hourly rate up to £ 1,500)
- Digital: yes, for document submission
- Appeal: only after judicial consent
- Enforcement in the EU: uncertain because of Brexit.

Frankfurt Commercial Court

(Internationale Kammer für Handelssachen Landgericht Frankfurt am Main)

- Efficiency: 13th place on the 2024 EU Justice Scoreboard (Civil Cases; Figure 6); no specific set of Rules for Procedure for international cases is available
- Proceedings in English: hearings and exhibits only; documents must be submitted in German and the judgment is in German, but an English translation can be supplied. As from April 2025, the German federal states will be allowed to establish fully English-speaking chambers. However, German scholars are skeptical as to this initiative.¹
- Costs: substantial court fee (depending on the money value of the case; for a € 10 million claim, the court fee is € 125,000 in first instance); lawyers' fees are in the same region (€ 110,000 for a claim of € 10 million)

¹ see [Professor Riehm](#) and [Professor Rühl](#)

- Digital: no
- Appeal: yes, but not in English
- Enforcement in the EU: excellent, due to EU Regulation Brussels I-bis.

Netherlands Commercial Court (NCC)

(3 chambers: NCC District Court, NCC Court in Summary Proceedings and NCC Court of Appeal)

- Efficiency: 2nd place on the 2024 EU Justice Scoreboard (Civil Cases; Figure 6; however, this includes non-litigious cases); a specific set of Rules of Procedure is available which is tailored to international cases and promotes the efficient disposition of cases
- Proceedings in English: in all chambers English is the language of the case; this includes all communication - submission of documents, exhibits, hearings and judgments
- Costs: a flat court fee from € 9,000 to € 24,000; lawyers' rates in the Netherlands are mid-range
- Digital: yes, NCC uses a secure web portal (eNCC) for all communication
- Appeal: yes, in English
- Enforcement in the EU: excellent, due to EU Regulation Brussels I-bis.

Disclaimer

This fact sheet is based on publicly available information, such as the commercial courts' official websites, the Report of the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index (2024) and the 2024 EU Justice Scoreboard.

Need to know more on NCC?

If you have any questions, please contact us at NCC@rechtspraak.nl. Or visit our website www.ncc.gov.nl. You can also follow us on Twitter (@NethComCourt) and/or LinkedIn.

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