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REPRESENTATIVE ACTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE COLLECTIVE INTERESTS AND CONSUMER RIGHTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Summary: *By adopting Directive (EU) 2020/1828 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 November 2020, on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers and repealing Directive 2009/22/EC, the member states of the European Union undertook the obligation to enact laws and other regulations in order to harmonize with that Directive no later than December 25, 2022. Given that Croatia is in arrears with the above-mentioned obligation, the Bill on Representative Actions for the Protection of Collective Interests and Consumer Rights is in the legislative procedure, which introduces numerous novelties in relation to current mechanisms of procedural legal protection of consumers. Apart from the fact that in the context of the adoption of the new Law, the goals achieved thereby and the application area should be determined, the paper aims at presenting the new ideas referring to the Law. Firstly, it is necessary to determine which courts will decide in these proceedings and which procedural methods will be applied in order to conduct an analysis of the most significant features of collective legal protection – legal standing and potential funding by third parties and representative actions that differ according to the content of legal protection which is required of them. In addition, the novelties in the collective consumer protection procedure concern the implementation of the procedure itself, the decisions made, and other procedural institutes that have not been determined by law in such procedures. Finally, the Law specifically sets out the obligations of Member States towards the European Commission, which relate to the duty to provide information about representative actions and cross-border representative actions.*

Keywords: *Directive 2020/1828, representative actions, legal standing, authorities, consumers, procedure funding by third party*