

Registration

I hereby make a reservation for the video briefing:
(date to be confirmed)

Fax: +49 40 43282263 E-mail: info@ewc-academy.eu

Name

Company / Location

Telephone

E-mail

Function in EWC

No participation fee

The video briefing will be held in English and will last approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. Participation is free of charge. We can provide simultaneous interpretation on request (interpretation is subject to a fee).

☐ I need simultaneous interpretation for the following
language: _____

Date / Signature: _____

Forthcoming seminars:

Hamburg Conference for European and SE Works Councils

Hamburg, 25 + 26 January 2027

As every year since 2009, our two-day conference will again take place at the Hotel Hafen Hamburg. The agenda includes current trends in the EWC landscape with practical examples.



EWC and SE Introductory Seminar

Montabaur castle, 30 March - 2 April 2027

Our annual basic seminar for members of European Works Councils, SE Works Councils and Special Negotiating Bodies will take place in Montabaur. The castle is located at the ICE railway



station halfway between Frankfurt and Cologne. Several seminar modules for beginners and advanced participants will be offered there.

Legal basis for attending the seminar:

Members of European Works Councils from EU countries as well as the Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein can request central management for time-off work and to cover conference expenses under Article 10(4) of EU Directive 2009/38/EC. In most cases the EWC agreement or the SE Participation Agreement explicitly provides for an entitlement to training. This usually also applies to delegates from Switzerland, the UK and other non-EU countries. Members of European works councils governed by German law may attend in accordance with Article 38 (1) of the German EWC Act. Members of SE works councils governed by German law may participate in accordance with Article 31 of the SEBG. German works council members may attend in accordance with Article 37 (6) of the Works Constitution Act.



Video
briefing

European Works Councils under Irish law

Date to be confirmed

Prior to Brexit, Ireland played only a minor role in the landscape of European works councils. Brexit caused British and US companies to relocate their EWC from the UK to Ireland on a massive scale. As a consequence Ireland has moved up from 13th to third place in the EU, after Germany and France.

For Anglo-Saxon companies, it is not only the language and the legal culture that play a role in selecting their Dublin subsidiary to act as central management. Irish EWC law appears particularly attractive because it is considered deficient and does not meet the standards of the EU Directive, especially when it comes to taking legal action.

Historically no works councils

The Irish industrial relations system has historically had no works councils. For this reason, the characteristics of works council systems are a foreign element in the Irish legal system and there is a lack of adequate regulations. However, Ireland finds this much more difficult than Britain, where there have also been no works councils historically, but where EWC law quickly adapted to the new situation.

The European Commission is of the opinion that the Irish EWC Act (TICEA) does not comply with EU standards and opened an official infringement proceeding against the Republic of Ireland in May 2022. It is the first proceeding of its kind on the EWC Directive ever brought against a country.

In 2022 and 2023 a committee of the Irish Parliament discussed the issue. Representatives of employers, trade unions and experts including the EWC Academy were invited to the committee hearing, who unanimously reported that the legal process was inadequate and called for more accessible solutions for resolving disputes. See EWC Academy statement: <https://www.ewc-academy.eu/pdf/statement.pdf>

Supreme Court case



On 30 June and 1 July 2026, the Supreme Court heard the legal dispute between the EWC chairman of the US company Verizon Communications and its central management based in Ireland. The central issue in dispute is the payment of legal fees.

European works councils cannot take legal action as a collective body in Ireland, which is why the EWC chairman was mandated to do so by the entire EWC. Due to the sensitivity of the case, the Irish Chief State Solicitor joined the hearing as an intervening party on behalf of the government.

The public hearing provided the opportunity to examine the legal perspective of the Irish legislature. The legal dispute was triggered by central management's refusal to pay an expert's invoice from the EWC Academy and training fees of EWC members.

See report: <http://www.ewc-news.com/en022026.htm#1>

The following questions will be discussed during the video briefing:

- What does the Supreme Court's ruling mean for European works councils under Irish law?
- What legal remedies are available to European works councils in Ireland?
- When can disputes be resolved through arbitration?
- What are the legal consequences of arbitration?
- Who pays the EWC's legal fees?
- How long does it take for a dispute to be resolved under Irish law?
- When is it advisable to take legal action in Ireland, and when is it not advisable?
- What provisions should be included in an EWC agreement under Irish law, taking into account the Supreme Court's ruling

Who can participate?

The video briefing is aimed at employee representatives. The following are eligible to take part:

- Members of special negotiating bodies (including future members)
- Members of European works councils (including future members)
- Full-time trade union officers

Date to be confirmed

The date of the video briefing is yet to be confirmed and will take place following the delivery of the Supreme Court's judgement.