

European Law Institute

UK Hub

Webinar: Product Liability Reform

Monday, 19 January 2026, 18:00-19:30pm (BST), Microsoft Teams

On Monday, 19 January 2026, the European Law Institute (ELI) UK Hub will host the public webinar on Product Liability Reform in cooperation with The City Law School, City St George's, University of London (CLS) and British Institute for International and Comparative Law (BIICL).

The Law Commission has embarked on a review of the UK's legislation on liability for defective products. This review is very timely, because the current legislation dates back to the mid-1980s and was enacted as Part 1 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987, based on the EU's Product Liability Directive adopted in 1985. Since then, a much wider range of products have emerged, particularly as a result of digitalisation. A large number of physical products now incorporate software, and many have the capability of connection to the internet or other networks. In addition, a wide array of digital products has emerged in the form of applications and those building on artificial intelligence (AI) systems. None of these is currently within the scope of the existing product liability legislation in the UK.

The European Law Institute prompted a debate about the need for reforms at the EU level with its Innovation Paper on Guiding Principles for Updating the Product Liability Directive for the Digital Age (2021), followed by a draft for a revised Product Liability Directive (2022). ELI's work influenced the discussions at the EU level, culminating in the adoption of a new Product Liability Directive in 2024 (Directive (EU) 2024/2853).

The Law Commission began its work in September 2025. This webinar provides a timely opportunity to find out more about the scope of the Law Commission's work and the issues that have emerged so far, as well as hearing more about ELI's work and the wider challenges of product liability reform.

The speakers at this webinar are:

- **Professor Solene Rowan** (Law Commissioner for Commercial and Common Law)
- **David Roberts** (Lawyer, Law Commission Commercial and Common Law Team)
- **Professor Christiane Wendehorst** (University of Vienna, Scientific Director of ELI and a former ELI President)
- **Professor Geraint Howells** (University of Galway)

The webinar will be chaired by **Professor Christian Twigg- Flesner** (University of Warwick, ELI UK Hub Co-chair).

No registration is required. **To join the webinar, please use this link:**

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/33288720409960?p=pesqEDhkksWqN2BgI0>

We look forward to an engaging and informative discussion.

If you may not be able to take part in this webinar but would like to be kept informed of future UK Hub events, please email us at eliukhub2025@gmail.com

Professor Hugh Beale

Dame Sara Cockerill DBE

Professor Ana Keglevic-Steffek

Professor Eva Lein

Professor Christian Twigg-Flesner

This event is organised by the UK Hub of the European Law Institute. The UK Hub is supported by The City Law School, University of London and British Institute of International and Comparative Law (London).



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