

Working Lunch

Liability Frameworks in Life Sciences Sector and their implications to the EU Single Market

Date: 09/06/2026

Time: 12:30 – 14:00

Place: Culina Mundi event space, European Parliament, Brussels

AGENDA

12:30 | Welcome |

MEP Adam Jarubas, European People's Party, Chair of the SANT Committee, European Parliament

MEP Anna Zalewska, European Conservatives and Reformists, European Parliament

MEP Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis, Socialists and Democrats, European Parliament (Virtual)

13:00 |Keynote

Keynote: **Simon Neill**, Chairman of the Board, European Justice Forum

13:10 Interventions

Grímur Johannsson, Associate Director, European Federation for Pharmaceutical Industries and federations (EFPIA)

Jacek Garstka, Legislative Officer, Civil Justice, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission

Pablo Rojas Abad, Associate Director, Senior Legal Counsel, MedTech Europe

Albert Verdaguer, Senior Legal Counsel, Legal, Ethics & Business Integrity, Sanofi

Till Olaf Voss, Senior International Counsel Global Public Affairs, Bayer

Moderator: **Agata Boutanos**, CEO, European Justice Forum

Event Description

Innovation in the life sciences sector operates within one of the most highly regulated and risk-sensitive areas of the European economy. Advancements in biologics, vaccines, advanced therapies, and digital health technologies continue to transform patient care, while simultaneously raising complex legal questions relating to safety standards, defect assessment, causation, and the allocation of responsibility. Ongoing reforms of the EU Product Liability framework, together with the policy debate on Third Party Litigation Funding, are reshaping the legal environment governing redress, risk allocation, and legal certainty for investment and research.

Current revisions to liability rules are intended to strengthen consumer and patient protection in response to scientific and technological change, including AI-enabled and software-driven medical products. However, concerns have emerged regarding the potential disruption of products that have already undergone extensive conformity assessments, clinical evaluation, and regulatory certification under EU law. The reconsideration of liability standards applicable to products deemed safe and compliant at the point of market entry risks undermining regulatory approval systems, increasing defensive litigation, and generating additional compliance and insurance costs for life sciences companies. Such developments may also influence decisions on market access, pricing, and continued research and development within Europe.

At the same time, the growing role of litigation funding mechanisms affects how claims are initiated, financed, and pursued across jurisdictions. The combination of expanded liability exposure and funded collective actions raises questions regarding proportionality, legal predictability, and the overall balance between access to justice and the sustainability of innovation-driven sectors. In particular, litigation costs associated with challenging certified and regulated products may create financial and procedural pressures that extend beyond individual cases, with broader implications for manufacturers, insurers, and healthcare systems.

The discussion will explore how liability modernisation and litigation funding structures interact with the EU regulatory framework governing life sciences products and how these interactions shape the competitiveness of Europe's life sciences ecosystem. Attention will be given to evidentiary challenges, cross-border litigation dynamics, and the risk of fragmented judicial outcomes. The debate will also address concerns associated with procedural design, including the impact of concentrating significant interpretative power in the hands of a single judge under certain collective redress mechanisms. Such concentration may affect consistency of jurisprudence, judicial balance, and legal certainty across Member States, with long-term implications for the functioning of the EU judicial system.