



Avenue Louise 489
3rd Floor
B-1050 Brussels
TEL: +32 2 626 0500
FAX: +32 2 626 0510
dabrahams@steptoe.com

Areas of Practice

Chemical Regulatory
Environment & Natural Resources
EU Chemicals, REACH & CLP, Biocides & Pesticides
EU Environmental
EU Law
Food & Dietary Supplements
Food Contact Materials & Food Regulation
Nanotechnologies
US/EU Environment & Life Sciences

Languages

English
French

Education

University College London,
LL.M., Environmental Law,
1998
University College London,
LL.B. (Hons.), 1997

Admitted

Bar of England & Wales
Brussels Bar [E List]

Darren Abrahams

Darren Abrahams is an English Barrister and a partner in Steptoe's Brussels office. His practice is focused on EU regulatory requirements and the related commercial issues in the environment, chemicals, and life sciences area.

Legal 500 EMEA has noted his "comprehensive understanding" and "detailed and expert knowledge" of EU environmental regulation, and *Who's Who Legal Environment* identifies him as one of the leading individuals in this field. Additionally, the *PLC Which Lawyer? Yearbook* consistently recommends Mr. Abrahams in EU Life Sciences, as does *Chambers & Partners Europe*, which reports the market's assessment that he is "exceptionally hard-working and diligent."

Mr. Abrahams is particularly experienced in the following areas:

- Advocacy and representation before the Court of Justice of the European Union, EU Institutions and Agencies, and before the national authorities of EU Member States
- Biotechnology (genetically modified food, feed and plants)
- Chemicals (biocides, cosmetics, plant protection products (agrochemicals), REACH and Classification, Labelling and Packaging) and the issues of competition law arising in the sector, including cartels
- Due Diligence aspects of international transactions and the structuring of regulatory compliance programmes
- Environment (removal of barriers to trade, climate change, packaging and marketing claims, environmental liabilities, operation of industrial installations, product standards, substance restrictions and waste)
- Food and feed (packaging and marketing claims and hygiene rules)

Mr. Abrahams provides legal advice and representation to enable clients to authorise and place their products on the EU market (such as biocides, agrochemicals, genetically modified organisms, and substances covered by the REACH regimes). He also works with his clients to help them understand the commercial impacts of new EU regulatory initiatives, and advocates on their behalf to help shape their legislative and policy environment.

His professional experience includes an internship with the European Commission's Environment Directorate General, during which time he assisted on dossiers including the Environmental Liability Directive and Aarhus Convention. He lectures and publishes regularly.

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Noteworthy

- Listed in *Chambers Europe* for Environment: Regulatory (Belgium) 2009-2011
- Recommended by *Legal 500 EMEA* for EU Regulatory: Environment (including WEE and RoHS) 2008-2012
- Recommended by *Legal 500 EMEA* for EU Regulatory: Food 2012
- Listed in *Who's Who Legal* for Environment 2010-2011

Representative Matters

A recent list of matters in which he has been involved includes:

- Strategic and practical advice on compliance with REACH (including as an Only Representative and Third Party Representative)
- Marketing and packaging compliance checks for a range of cosmetic products
- Advice on the operation of the new EU Classification, Labelling & Packaging regime implementing GHS
- Defending the authorisation of several chemical substances before the General Court
- Data protection, consortia and supply agreements for biocidal and plant protection products
- Advice on liability issues under the *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*
- Advocacy concerning the proposed nationalisation of the EU system of approvals for the cultivation of genetically modified organisms
- A complete regulatory health check for the marketing of an energy drink in several EU Member States
- Advice on environmental liability issues associated with various manufacturing processes and product sales
- Structuring of compliance regimes for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and strategies for addressing RoHS non-compliant electrical and electronic products
- Advice on WTO litigation challenges to aspects of the EU's approach to the regulation of genetically modified organisms

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- Advice on the authorisation of novel foods
- Product recalls for defective/non-complaint products
- Advice on authorisation, classification, and reclassification of medical devices

Select Seminars & Events

Biocides in China and Europe Seminar, June 2012, (*A Steptoe-Sponsored Event*)

Effective REACH Strategies: Next Steps, May 15, 2012, (*A Steptoe-Sponsored Event*)

New European Union Regulations for Biocides Webinar, April 24, 2012, *US Commercial Service*

"REACH 2013 Registration Preparations—Key Issues for Industry", March 7, 2012, *2012 GlobalChem Conference and Exhibition*

"New EU Regime for Plant Protection Products", *Annual Conference on European Environmental Law 2011, European Academy of Law*, June 6, 2011

Darren Abrahams Presents Legal Perspectives on the Internal Market and EU Importation, European Parliament Session on GMO Cultivation, March 2, 2011

Selected Publications

The Lisbon Treaty
What the Changes in EU Governance Mean to the Chemical Industry
September 2010

EU Analyst: Environment & Life Sciences
July 30, 2010

EU Analyst: Environment & Life Sciences
April 15, 2010

EU Briefing - What to Expect from the New European Commission
January 26, 2010

The Proposed Austrian Ban on GMOs - is It Legal Under European Community Law?
June 23, 2009, *Agriculture et Environnement*

REACH: Key Competition Issues
June 19, 2009, *Law360*

Darren Abrahams

EU Analyst: Environment & Life Sciences
June 16, 2009

EU Analyst: Environment & Life Sciences
June 17, 2008

Professional Affiliations

American Chamber of Commerce to the EU

Bar European Group

UK Environmental Law Association