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New options for international disputes in Germany – status of implementation of commercial courts in the federal states

The Act to Strengthen Germany as a Forum for Litigation (Justizstandort-Stärkungsgesetz) came into force on 1 April 2025.

Federal state	Type of panel, location and specialisation	Commencement
Baden-Württemberg	**Commercial Court** ▪ At the Higher Regional Court of Stuttgart, two senates ▪ Minor specialization, jurisdiction for most disputes falling under section 119b(1), sentence 1 GVG (new version), with a few narrow exceptions **Commercial Chambers** ▪ At the Regional Court of Stuttgart; comprises three divisions – one a civil division and two for commercial matters ▪ Jurisdiction for the above-mentioned disputes	April 2025
Bavaria	**Commercial Court** ▪ Commercial court with two senates at the Higher Regional Court of Munich ▪ Initial specialisation in supply chain disputes and disputes between companies and the members of their management body or supervisory board pursuant to section 119b(1), sentence 1, no. 3 GVG (new version) **Commercial Chambers** ▪ No commercial chambers currently planned	June 2025
Berlin	**Commercial Court** ▪ At the Higher Regional Court of Berlin, one senate ▪ Restricted to civil law disputes between businesses from construction and architectural contracts and from engineering contracts insofar as connected to construction services ▪ Effective 1 January 2027, additional jurisdiction over civil disputes between business entities in corporate law, as well as over disputes under section 119b(1), sentence 1, nos. 2 and 3 of the GVG, as amended. **Commercial Chambers** ▪ At the Regional Court of Berlin II, two divisions, one a civil division and one for commercial matters ▪ Jurisdiction for the above-mentioned disputes ▪ Effective 1 January 2027, legal disputes arising from construction and architectural contracts, as well as from engineering contracts to the extent they relate to construction services, will be heard exclusively in English.	April 2025
Brandenburg	There are currently no plans for a commercial court or commercial chambers	–

Federal state	Type of panel, location and specialisation	Commencement
Bremen	**Commercial Court** ▪ At the Higher Regional Court of Bremen, one senate ▪ Restricted to disputes between businesses involving freight, forwarding, warehousing and maritime trade law as well as hydrogen, civil aviation and space technologies **Commercial Chambers** ▪ No commercial chambers currently planned – the approach is to first see how the commercial court is received	April 2025
Hamburg	**Commercial Court** ▪ At the Higher Regional Court of Hamburg, two senates ▪ One senate is to specialise in disputes involving construction law, banking and finance law, and corporate and post-M&A disputes, the other in disputes involving insurance law, transport law and shipping law **Commercial Chambers** ▪ At the Regional Court of Hamburg, two civil divisions ▪ Specialisation (via partial restriction of section 119b(1), sentence 1 GVG (new version)) in disputes involving commercial matters, competition/antitrust, transport law, IT law and insolvency law as well as corporate and post-M&A disputes	April 2025
Hessen	**Commercial Court** ▪ At the Higher Regional Court of Frankfurt, two senates ▪ Minor specialisation, jurisdiction for most disputes falling under section 119b(1), sentence 1 GVG (new version), with a few narrow exceptions **Commercial Chambers** ▪ At the Regional Court of Frankfurt; comprises six divisions – three civil divisions and three divisions for commercial matters ▪ Jurisdiction for the above-mentioned disputes	Juli 2025
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	There are currently no plans for a commercial court or commercial chambers	–

Federal state	Type of panel, location and specialisation	Commencement
Lower-Saxony	**Commercial Court** ▪ At the Higher Regional Court of Celle, two senates ▪ No restriction or specialisation, jurisdiction for all disputes falling under section 119b(1), sentence 1 GVG (new version) **Commercial Chambers** ▪ One division at the Regional Courts of Braunschweig, Hannover and Osnabrück for an amount in dispute from EUR 100,000, either as a civil division or as a division for commercial matters ▪ Jurisdiction for the above-mentioned disputes	2025
North Rhine-Westphalia	**Commercial Court** ▪ At the Higher Regional Court of Düsseldorf, three senates ▪ Specialisation (via partial restriction of section 119b(1), sentence 1 GVG (new version)) of one senate in civil disputes between businesses from construction and architectural contracts and from engineering contracts insofar as connected to construction services; of the second senate in civil disputes between businesses from insurance contracts, in particular contracts relating to D&O insurance; and of the third senate in civil disputes between businesses involving corporate matters, in issues and disputes from or in connection with the acquisition of a business or shares in a business, and in disputes between companies and the members of their management body or supervisory board **Commercial Chambers** ▪ At the Regional Courts of Düsseldorf, Bielefeld, Essen and Cologne, in principle for all disputes also under the jurisdiction of the Commercial Court ▪ Additional specialisation at individual regional courts depending on the amount in dispute – At the Regional Courts of Bielefeld and Essen for disputes involving renewable energies and an amount in dispute exceeding EUR 100,000 – At the Regional Court of Cologne for disputes involving IT and an amount in dispute exceeding EUR 100,000 (jurisdiction for all of North Rhine-Westphalia) – At the Regional Court of Düsseldorf for disputes involving corporate transactions and an amount in dispute exceeding EUR 500,000 (jurisdiction for all of North Rhine-Westphalia)	April 2025
Rhineland-Palatinate	There are currently no plans for a Commercial Court or Commercial Chambers but Rhineland-Palatinate is " generally open" to cooperating with other federal states in the future	–
Saarland	No Commercial Court or Commercial Chambers have yet been established; the matter is "still under review" with all options on the table	–

Federal state	Type of panel, location and specialisation	Commencement
Saxony	**Commercial Court** ▪ At the Higher Regional Court of Dresden with two senates ▪ Restricted to civil law disputes arising from real estate rental and lease agreements, certain banking transactions, corporate law disputes and disputes between companies and the members of their management body or supervisory board, which are subject to German substantive law ▪ Proceedings can be conducted in German only **Commercial Chambers** ▪ No Commercial Chambers currently planned	November 2025
Saxony-Anhalt	There are currently no plans for a Commercial Court or Commercial Chambers	–
Schleswig-Holstein	No information currently available	–
Thuringia	There are currently no plans for a Commercial Court or Commercial Chambers	–

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