



# EALG

## EURO-AMERICAN LAWYERS GROUP

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### ***THE DUTCH UNFAIR COMPETITION CRASH TEAM***

*AN EURO-AMERICAN LAWYERS GROUP BRIEFING ARTICLE  
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If an entrepreneur who is active in a market abroad faces obstructions such as unclear regulations or foreign authorities that do not apply regulations, the entrepreneur can seek the assistance of the Netherlands Unfair Competition Crash Team. This team sees to it that the entrepreneur receives prompt and adequate help.

The Crash Team consists of a network of government organisations. If an entrepreneur feels that he is put at a disadvantage by a foreign authority, and as a result of that, experiences unfair competition, representatives from various disciplines related to the problem will take action to find a solution to this problem. If necessary, the Crash Team will contact the foreign authority concerned.

The Crash Team looks into problems that have the following characteristics:

- international trade and investments
- in Dutch companies
- unequal competition due to alleged support given to companies in foreign countries, such as:
  - discrimination during tender procedures
  - unlawful government support given to a foreign competitor
  - time-consuming expropriation procedures
- caused by a foreign government entity.

The Crash Team keeps the entrepreneur informed of the developments in the case. After the report is received the Crash Team Coordinator contacts the entrepreneur, and draws up a diagnosis of the problem. At the same time the various relevant government authorities are called in, and the Crash Team is formed. The team may consist of representatives from other departments, the Dutch embassy in the country concerned, organisations in the branch of trade, etcetera.



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The way in which the case needs to be seen to is analysed together with the Crash Team. One can think of action by the Dutch embassy in the country concerned, interventions on the level of trade politics, contacts on the level of policy-makers, etcetera. The strategy plan can be modified during the process.

If, despite all efforts, the Crash Team does not succeed in proposing a solution one will look for other ways to solve the problem.

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