

**LEGISLATION**

# McCreevy rules out EC action on broker analysis

**Martin Essex**

Charlie McCreevy, the European internal market commissioner, has rejected calls for Europe-wide regulation of broker research.

He said: "I will only legislate where there is clear market failure and where the benefits of doing so clearly outweigh the costs. At this stage, we are not convinced there is any significant market failure."

McCreevy was speaking at the launch of a trade federation, the European Association of Independent Research Providers, at which market participants and regulators called for pan-European action.

George Möller, chief executive of Robeco Group, the Dutch fund manager, said: "The federation should ask Brussels for something

uniform across Europe's markets."

Jean Demandolx-Dedons of the Autorité des Marchés Financiers, the French regulator, said: "The AMF will arbitrate when there's a conflict but this can't be done only in France or the UK. It has to be co-ordinated at a European level."

However, there was support for McCreevy from Christina Sinclair, head of institutional business policy at the UK's Financial Services Authority. "McCreevy said unless there's a market failure we shouldn't be involved, and that's our view too," she said.

The commissioner said Brussels hoped to bring forward its formal proposals for implementing measures to fill in the details of the markets in financial instruments directive later this year.