

Thoburn v Sunderland City Council (2003)

The implementation of European Community laws that seemed to contradict one another.

Evidence

The claimants in this case argued against the Units of Measurement Regulations of 1994. The document in question changed section 1 of the Weights and Measures Act of 1985 by prohibiting deployment of imperial units of measurement in commerce, except for the cases when the imperial units gave additional information to the existing metrics. The claimants indicated that the document of 1994 was created to restore the conditions of sections 2 and 4 of the European Communities Act of 1972, which also contradicted section 1 of the 1985 act.

Problematics

It was important to decide whether section 1 of the 1985 act contradicted the 1972 legislation to the extent that it became necessary to create a subordinate document to repeal section 1 of the 1985 regulation document.

Resolution

The claim was dismissed. The court found that the 1985 act did not contradict the legislation of 1972. Rights and obligations of European Union law were implemented into domestic law, taking into account the specifics of each country, and each country modified its laws to make them comply with the EU legislation.

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