



Competitive Edge

Keeping you up to date on Competition and EU law developments in Europe and beyond

In Focus



Data privacy vs. Antitrust: Why legal teams must now speak both languages

The digital economy has shattered traditional legal silos. Data privacy and competition law now intersect in ways that fundamentally reshape market dynamics. When dominant platforms use privacy frameworks as competitive weapons, regulators are responding with unprecedented cooperation between data protection and competition authorities. For in-house legal teams, this convergence demands fluency in both disciplines. Companies that fail to recognise how privacy implementations can tip competitive scales risk regulatory action and missed strategic opportunities. Understanding these regulatory shifts is essential for effective compliance and business strategy.

Read the full article by [Thomas Oster](#) and [Elsa Mandel Benichou](#) for a detailed analysis of these developments and their practical implications.

[Read the full story](#)



AI & Competition law survey

Help us tailor our AI & Competition law content to your needs

As AI continues to reshape markets and regulatory landscapes, we want to ensure that our insights remain relevant to your practice. Please take 2-3 minutes to complete our quick survey on AI and competition law priorities. Your responses will help us develop more targeted content, events, and resources.

We'll be happy to share a summary of the key findings with the survey participants.

[Click here to take the survey](#)

Updates from our jurisdictions

EU

How could this happen? Car manufacturers and industry association get €458 million fine over end-of-life vehicles recycling cartel

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Anne Federle](#) or [Álvoro López de Ochoa García](#).

Small Stakes, High Fines: European Commission Fines Delivery Hero and Glovo EUR 329 Million

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Joost van Roosmalen](#) or [Pauline Kuipers](#).

China

Brief Analysis on Artificial Intelligence and Antitrust in China

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Sven-Michael Wemmel](#) or [Grace Zhao](#).

Czech Republic

Czech Constitutional Court intervenes to strike down unlawful dawn raid against betting companies

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Martin Taimr](#) or [Vojtěch Chloupek](#).

Denmark

Digital Love: Leveraging Physical Market Power in Digital Markets - Danish Maritime and Commercial High Court Confirms Tying Abuse

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Morten Nissen](#), [Alexander Brøchner](#) or [Stefan Brkic](#).

Finland

Exclusivity and price parity clauses under review in Finland's food delivery market

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Katia Duncker](#), [Petteri Metsä-Tokila](#) or [Maria Karpathakis](#).

Germany

German Federal Court of Justice Confirms Apple's Paramount Significance for Competition Across Markets

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Stephan Waldheim](#) or [Citty Narymany Shandy](#).

Hungary

Decrease in Single-Bid Public Procurements in the Vehicle Procurement Market

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Gabor Kutai](#) or [Kinga Kálmán](#)

Italy

Italian Competition Authority accepts Dior Group commitments in ethical and social claims investigation

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Federico Marini Balestra](#) or [Bianca Maria Gorlero](#).

Netherlands

All Bark, no Bite? Dutch Regulator Starts Investigation into Veterinary Sector

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Pauline Kuipers](#) or [Joost van Roosmalen](#).

A swipe at Apple's power: Dutch Court upholds antitrust order against Apple's App Store terms

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Pauline Kuipers](#).

Spain

CNMC request modifications to RFEF's proposals for a more competitive commercialisation of audiovisual rights in Spanish football competitions

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Candela Sotés](#).

UK

Court of Appeal Upholds CMA's Decision in Excessive Pricing Case

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Peter Willis](#) or [Flora McCarthy](#).

Events and webinars



IBA Conference

ESG: the Brussels Effect at a crossroads

18 - 20 June | Paris, France

Presented by the IBA European Regional Forum, IBA North American Regional Forum, SEERIL, IBA Business Human Rights Committee, and IBA Law Firm Management Committee, this conference will explore the divergence of ESG approaches in the EU and America, global regulatory shifts, sector-specific ESG topics, and updates from industry leaders on national security, regulatory landscapes, and AI.

Partner [Pauline Kuipers](#) will join a panel discussing *The EU Omnibus Package going forward – what businesses should look out for now and in the short/mid-term future*. This session will cover compliance with the CSRD, CS3D, and EU taxonomy, the impact of Omnibus I and II on ESG reporting, effective ESG due diligence strategies, and the future of regulatory harmonisation in ESG reporting across the EU.

[More information here >>](#)



2025 Florence Digitalisation Summer Conference

Digital sovereignty in a post-globalised world

26 - 27 June | Badia Fiesolana, Italy & Online

This conference will explore the concept of digital sovereignty and its impact on competition and innovation in technology markets. The hybrid event, organised by the Centre for a Digital Society and the OECD Secretariat, will cover issues such as the policy objectives of digital sovereignty and its differing interpretations in the EU and USA. Discussions will also delve into the influence of digital sovereignty on the development of technologies like 5G, semiconductors and AI, as well as its implications for future competitive dynamics.

Bird & Bird partner [Hein Hobbelen](#) will take part in a panel on *Semi-Conductors and Manufacturing Resilience*.

[Find out more here >>](#)



Conference takeaways

Key takeaways from Global Merger Control Forum 2025

15 May | Brussels, Belgium

Our Brussels-based partner [Anne Federle](#) shared some key insights from the recent Global Merger Control Forum organised by Thought Leaders 4 Competition, where she moderated the panel on *Political and Policy Pressures Shaping Merger Control*, featuring experts from across the industry. Discover her thoughts on the – not so new – debate on the role of industrial policy in merger control and about the challenges created by the *illumina/Graill* and the *Towercast* judgements for drafting effective merger control conditions precedent in transaction agreements.

[Read the short blog post here >>](#)



Key Takeaways from recent event

Competition law developments in Sport

Did you miss our breakfast seminar on the latest competition law developments in sport on 10 June? You can read a short list of key takeaways by clicking on the link below.

Featuring a cutting-edge expert panel, the discussions explored the impact of the Sports Trilogy competition cases (namely, *Superleague*, *International Skating Union* and *Royal Antwerp*) on the future of sport regulation.

Guest speakers were:

- **Marie Demetriou KC** – Barrister, Brick Court Chambers
- **Nick Craig** – Chief Operating Officer, English Football League
- **Prof. Giorgio Monti** – Professor of Competition Law, Tilburg Law School

The panel was moderated by our competition law partner [Dr. Saskia King](#) and sports law partner [Richard Bush](#). Keep an eye out for future events and updates on this topic.

[Read the Key Takeaways from the event >>](#)

Bird & Bird news



Best Lawyers in France 2026

Congratulations to our Paris - based competition partner [Thomas Oster](#), who has been recognised in the 2026 edition of Best Lawyers in France, in the Competition / Antitrust law category.

Furthermore, Paris-based associate [Elsa Mandel](#) has also been included in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in France for her expertise in Competition / Antitrust law. Using peer review methodology, Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch recognizes lawyers in the early stages of their careers for their outstanding professional excellence in private practice.

[Visit our Competition & EU Law Insights page](#)

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