

Virtual Seminar

Competition policy and consumer protection in the digital era: adjustment or reform?

 Online (Budapest time)

 3-4 November 2021

Seminar objectives

Competition in major digital markets is different in some ways from competition in more traditional markets. This sector often includes platform-based business models, multi-sided markets, network effects and economies of scale which render competition issues more complex and often interrelated with consumer protection. Moreover, digital markets are characterised by high rates of investment and innovation, which lead to rapid technological progress in the sector, and to increased disruptive innovation.

This seminar will explore a number of issues that can be traced back to digitalisation: competition policy challenges, the increased role of data, additional criteria for assessing vertical restraints, competition advocacy in digital markets and the relationship between consumers and online platforms. Particular attention will be devoted to the recent evolution of the EU case law.

Agenda

Wednesday, 3 November 2021

| | |
|--|--|
| 14.00-14.15 (Budapest time) | Welcome and opening remarks Mr Csaba Balázs Rigó, President, Hungarian Competition Authority GVH |
| 14.15-14.45 | Introduction: are we really seeing what is happening? Mr Renato Ferrandi, Coordinator of OECD-GVH RCC training activities, OECD |
| 14.45-15.45 | KEYNOTE SPEECH: New challenges to competition enforcement stemming from the digitalisation of the economy Prof William Kovacic, George Washington University, US |
| 15.45-16.30 | The review of the EU Vertical Block Exemption Regulation and Vertical Guidelines: genesis, process and state of play Ms Kassiani Christodoulou, DG COMP, European Commission |

Thursday, 4 November 2021

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 10.30-12.00 | Workshop on Consumer Protection Experience sharing between the GVH Consumer Protection Section and consumer protection experts from the CMA, UK |
| 14.00-14.10 | Introduction to the second plenary day Mr Renato Ferrandi, OECD |
| 14.10-15.00 | Major Recent Developments in EU Competition law Mr John Ratliff, WilmerHale, Brussels |
| 15.00-15.45 | Competition in digital markets: the perspective of another competition authority Mr José Eduardo Mendoza Contreras, Commissioner, COFECE, Mexico |
| 15.45-16.30 | Consumer protection online Mr Andrew Hadley, Assistant Director in Policy & International, CMA, UK |
| 16.30-16.45 | Final remarks Mr Renato Ferrandi, Coordinator of OECD-GVH training activities, OECD |