Bird & Bird

September 2025 Competitive Edge

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

Buyer beware: Nordic competition authorities expand merger control powers with a focus on technology,

In Focus

healthcare and pharmaceuticals - same goal, different rules Competition authorities across the Nordic region are expanding their enforcement reach with new call-in powers designed to capture "killer acquisitions" and other below-threshold transactions that traditional turnover tests miss. While Denmark and Sweden

have already implemented these mechanisms - with Denmark using its powers for the first time in August 2025 in two high-profile cases - Finland continues to advocate for similar tools but is not there yet. For in-house counsel managing multi-jurisdictional transactions, these divergent approaches create new complexities in deal planning, particularly in technology, healthcare, and pharmaceutical sectors where innovative start-ups and emerging competitors are prime acquisition targets. Read the full article for our analysis of how these changes may affect your transaction strategy.

Updates from our jurisdictions

A decision of epic proportions: Federal Court finds that app store providers contravened

Belgium No Red Card (yet): BCA Rejects Interim Measures Against Belgian Football's Controversial Quota System

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact Thomas Jones, Jonathon Ellis, Dylan McGirr or Ruby Simpson.

Australia

Denmark Uber/Dantaxi and OneMed/Hardam

Australia's competition laws

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact Baptist Vleeshouwers or David Wouters.

Germany

acquisitions trigger first application of Danish

call-in rules – twice in two days! If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact Morten Nissen, Alexander Brøchner or Pauline Holm Jørgensen.

Finland Finland launches assessment on personal liability for cartel infringements

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact Katia

Key Takeaways from LES seminar: Licensing Negotiation Groups (LNGs) in Standard **Essential Patent Licensing**

<u>Duncker</u>, <u>Petteri Metsä-Tokila</u> or <u>Maria Karpathakis</u>.

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact Stephan Waldheim.

Italy Abuse of dominant position and selfpreferencing: the Italian Regional Administrative Court for Latium's ruling in the

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

Netherlands

Poland

or Stanislaw Szymanek.

administration

competition enforcement

King, Tenisha Cramer or Flora McCarthy.

Competition & EU

Competitive Edge podcast

Amazon case

or Joost van Roosmalen. **Poland**

The undoing of the Dieselgate scandal in

Preparedness at any price? ACM warns against

defence procurement shortcuts

Spain For the first time, the CNMC directly imposes a prohibition on contracting with the public

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact Candela Sotés.

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact Marcin Alberski

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact Janneke Kohlen

UK Laying new foundations: how commitments in the housebuilding sector could mark a transformation in the CMA's approach to

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact Saskia

Podcast

Competitive Edge – The Podcast

Episode 12: Foreign Direct Investment

regulations for corporate restructuring

In our latest podcast episode exploring the complexities of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

 Why internal reorganisations can trigger FDI requirements just like external acquisitions · Practical strategies for early assessment and compliance in multi-jurisdictional transactions

This 15-minute episode provides essential insights

for in-house teams managing corporate

Key takeaways from our recent

With competition authorities increasingly active

differences to managing legal privilege and internal communications, the session covered essential strategies every in-house lawyer should know.

Read the key takeaways from our "Inside the

across Europe, are you prepared for an unannounced inspection? Our Helsinki team recently hosted a practical seminar on dawn raid preparation and response, sharing real-world insights from recent EU cases and in-house perspectives. From understanding authority

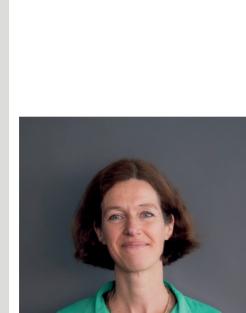
across jurisdictions

regulations for corporate restructuring, Tenisha Cramer (UK), Tialda Beetstra (Netherlands) and Tamy Tietze (Germany) discuss: Key FDI frameworks including the Dutch Vifo Act, the UK National Security and Investment Act and the German FDI regime Notification thresholds and review timelines

restructuring activities. <u>Listen to the podcast episode >></u> If you have any questions or need clarifications, please feel free to contact the speakers.

Events and webinars

seminar in Helsinki Dawn Raid Readiness



ERA - Academy of European Law Summer Course on AI, Digital and Information Technology Law in the EU

This course provides a thorough introduction to European information technology law and digital law, with a focus on emerging technologies such as Al and the Internet of Things, and EU initiatives on

Partner Pauline Kuipers will teach a session on 19

access to data in the digital environment.

Raid" seminar here >>

19 September | Online

September, dedicated to AI in the Digital Single Market, on DMA, competition law in the IT, AI and in the digital sectors. More information here >> Online event Global Annual Sports Day Webinar 23 September | Online Bird & Bird's International Sports Group is hosting its fifth annual Global Sports Day webinar, bringing together leading sports law experts from around the

globe to deliver insights on key issues affecting the sports industry. The comprehensive program covers topics ranging from Australian sports law insights and reputation management to trans athlete

eligibility, safeguarding regulation, and employment

Our competition partners Dr Saskia King and Janneke Kohlen will speak on UK/EU competition

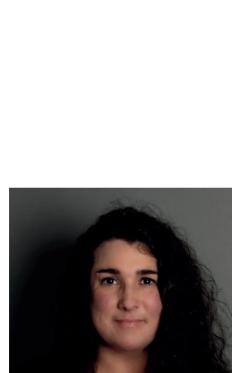
More information & registration here >>

law developments.

Conference

policy.

updates in the sports industry.



LEAR Competition Festival 2025 23 - 25 September | Rome, Italy The LEAR Competition Festival is a three-day international event in Rome that brings together leading competition law experts, economists, and practitioners to discuss cutting-edge antitrust issues and the crucial role of economics in competition

Our London-based partner Dr Saskia King will speak on the panel Key Red Flags Before You Merge: Avoiding the Gun-Jumping Trap. The presentation will address critical compliance challenges facing businesses today, exploring warning signs of potential gun-jumping violations

Bird & Bird experts Marcin Alberski (Competition), Paweł Sawicki (White Collar Crime), Wojciech Czyżewski and Jakub Kur (Forensic services) will discuss the latest trends, frequently emerging problems and challenges that organisations face when conducting internal investigations. Marcin will also provide comments on the new draft leniency guidelines shared by the Polish Competition

The seminar, dedicated to in-house lawyers, will take place in person (in Polish) and will not be

EUI - Centre for a Digital Society

Florence Competition Autumn

6 - 9 October | Fiesole (Florence), Italy

competition agency representatives. This

The Florence Competition Autumn School is an advanced residential course focusing on recent developments in European competition policy, featuring renowned academics, practitioners, and

interdisciplinary course is designed for mid-career professionals including in-house counsels, lawyers, economists, and competition authority officials.

Our senior associate Tialda Beetstra will teach a session on Leniency and Dawn Raids, and will lead a Dawn raid simulation group exercise at the event.

Click here to register for the event >>

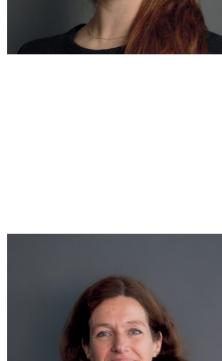
Authority in September 2025.

School 2025 edition

More information here >>

broadcast online.

and providing practical guidance for companies navigating pre-merger integration planning. More information here >> In-person event in Poland Internal investigations 2 October | Bird & Bird office in Warsaw On 2 October, Bird & Bird Poland, together with the Polish In-house Lawyers Association (PILA), will host a workshop devoted to internal investigations.



Dutch Competition Law Conference **Annual Competition Congress** 9 October | Amsterdam, The Netherlands This annual conference is organised by the Stichting Ontwikkelingen Mededingingsrecht foundation in order to raise awareness of competition law and competition policy developments in the Netherlands, and to provide a forum for discussion and commentary. The event is aimed at practitioners, judges, members of supervisory authorities, civil servants and academics specialising in competition law or regulation.

Our partner Pauline Kuipers will moderate a session

TechLaw Day 2025: AI-driven

flagship event will feature valuable updates,

in powering data centres - a timely topic as competition authorities increasingly scrutinise environmental claims in the tech sector. Our competition senior associate Ariane Le Strat will speak on Green Claims with regards to Data

More information and registration >>

Webinar - Save the date

law.

UK Merger Control update

13 November | 13:00 - 13:45 GMT | Online

Join our Bird & Bird Competition law experts

alongside Cristina Caballero Candelario, Principal at Fingleton, for essential insights on the evolving UK merger control regime. Having recently served as Assistant Director of Mergers at the CMA, where she led numerous high-profile Phase One and Phase Two investigations and was part of the Mergers Intelligence Committee, Cristina will provide further perspectives on this critical area of

The focused 45-minute session will explore how political pressures and policy shifts are reshaping UK merger control, what the first year of the hybrid threshold reveals, and provide practical guidance for deal teams navigating this changing landscape.

This webinar is designed for in-house counsel and corporate lawyers managing UK M&A transactions.

EU Manufacturing Resilience and

Buzzwords to Business Impact

On 16 September our Competition and Trade partner Hein Hobbelen and Regulatory & Public Affairs advisor Paolo Sasdelli presented on how EU manufacturing resilience and strategic autonomy are transforming competition and trade defence

• The war on trade: what is shifting in EU Trade

Proposals by the European Commission to

• Will we see the emergence of European Champions in certain strategic sectors?

The 1-hour webinar concluded with three key

Watch the webinar, which will help you to

takeaways for in-house counsel and a Q&A session.

understand how these policy shifts may impact your

Register for the free webinar here >>

Full agenda and speaker lineup to follow

Strategic Autonomy: from

policy. Topics discussed included:

change merger reviews

• Trends in EU Trade Defence law

Defence policy?

Webinar recording

economy – what issues does it raise

Join us at Bird & Bird's 19th annual TechLaw Day on 15 October at the Pan Pacific Hotel in London. This

insights, and discussions on key technology trends and their connection to legal developments. The day will bring together a community of legal, technology and business experts to share their insights. One of the topics explored will be sustainability challenges

Centres and is looking forward to meeting you there.

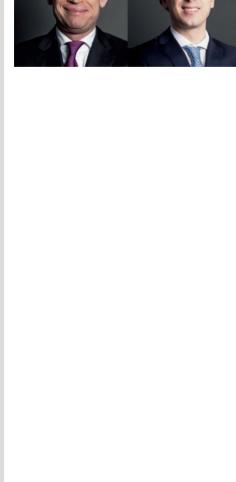
on novel cartels at this event.

for in-house lawyers?

More information here >>

In-person event

15 October | London



Competition law.

Morten Nissen

Janneke Kohlen

Lexology Index

Competition: 2025

Anne Federle

Pauline Kuipers

Hein Hobbelen

Peter Willis

company's operations and strategic planning. Watch the webinar recording here >> Bird & Bird news Congratulations to our partners Morten Nissen, Anne Federle, Hein Hobbelen, Janneke Kohlen, Pauline Kuipers, Peter Willis, and Scott McInnes, who have been recognised in the 2025 edition of Lexology Index (previously Who's Who Legal) for their exceptional work in Bird&Bird

Scott McInnes

AI & Competition law survey

tailor our AI & Competition law

We'll be happy to share a summary of the key

findings with the survey participants.

Contacts

content to your needs

Take this 2-minute survey to help us

As Al continues to reshape markets and regulatory landscapes, we would like to be sure that our insights remain relevant to your practice. Please take a couple of minutes to complete our brief survey on AI and competition law priorities. Your responses will help us develop more targeted content, events, and resources for you.

Pauline Kuipers Partner, The Hague

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NEWSLETTERS & EVENT INVITATIONS

PRIVACY

Find out more about our Competition Law Practice and follow Bird & Bird on LinkedIn Newsletters and content-led events give general information only as at the date of first publication and/or the date of the event, and

form if you would like to send this on.

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<u>Morten Nissen</u> Partner, Copenhagen Co-head of Global Competition & EU +45 2 759 3204 morten.nissen@twobirds.com are not intended to give a comprehensive analysis. They should not be used as a substitute for legal or other professional advice, which should be obtained in specific circumstances. Furthermore, information in our newsletters and from our events is provided subject to our terms and conditions of use here as if references to the website were to also to such content.

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