

Competitive Edge

Bird & Bird

Competitive Edge

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

In Focus



Interim Measures: Is the European Commission Catching Up with (French and Belgian) National Competition Authorities?

Following the European Commission's recent announcement that it is seeking interim measures to safeguard competition on transatlantic airline routes, and its report on the use of interim measures by national competition authorities, this article explores the application of interim measures by the European Commission, as well as the Belgian and the French competition authorities. It outlines the conditions and timeframes for the adoption of interim measures and explores how they can serve as both a shield and a sword for market players engaged in commercial negotiations. The piece also provides key takeaways for businesses that may find themselves in situations where interim measures are warranted.

[Read the full story](#)



Nicola Ceraolo
Of Counsel, Rome
[Contact](#)

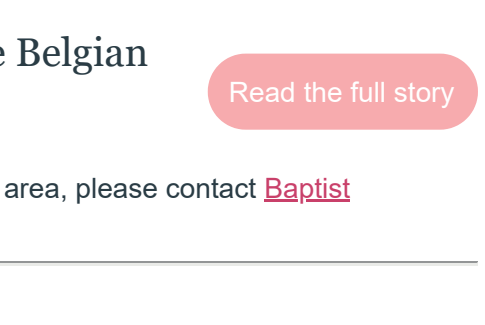
Thirty-five years of antitrust in the digital world: a tale of power, technology and freedom

This article explores the complex evolution of antitrust laws in response to the rise of the digital era. Drawing parallels with the monopolistic aspirations of John D. Rockefeller in the oil industry, the article explores how the birth of the Internet and the boom of tech giants have prompted intense debates on the role of antitrust laws and the responsibilities of competition authorities. As the digital industry becomes more deeply entrenched in our lives, the question arises: how should we adapt our thinking about competition law for the new digital age? Dive into this compelling discussion to understand where this debate has led us, and what it means for the future of antitrust in the digital world.

[Read the full story](#)

Webinar on 13 March

EU Foreign Subsidies Regulation: Cutting-Edge Cases and Insights



Updates from our jurisdictions

Belgium

Below-Threshold Merger Scrutiny: The Belgian Competition Authority strikes again

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Baptist Vleeshouwers](#) or [Claire De Neve](#).

Denmark

DJ, please DO stop the Music

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Morten Nissen](#) or [Nanna Sofie Krabbe](#).

Finland

The Finnish FDI Act Revision: Stricter Approach to Critical Infrastructure and Expanded Scope Expected

[Read the full story](#)

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

Netherlands

ACM kicks off 5 market investigations – why wait for a New Competition Tool?

[Read the full story](#)

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

From Proposal to Practice: the ACM is all set to enforce the Digital Services Act

[Read the full story](#)

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

Spain

Spain extends FDI transitional regime for EU & EFTA investors until 2026

[Read the full story](#)

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

UK

High Court Draws the Line in First NSIA Judicial Review Proceedings

[Read the full story](#)

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

Events and webinars



Webinar

EU Foreign Subsidies Regulation: Cutting-Edge Cases and Insights

13 March | 15:00 - 16:00 CET

Don't miss our upcoming webinar on the EU Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR). Speakers from Bird & Bird's Competition and Public Procurement law groups [Morten Nissen](#), [Janneke Kohlen](#), [Daniel Arányi](#), [Tialda Beetsstra](#) and [Gábor Kutai](#) will unpack the regulation's impacts on M&A and public tenders, examining case studies, and offering expert insights.

Aimed at in-house counsel and M&A and procurement specialists in companies as well as government entities worldwide, this webinar will help you understand how to successfully navigate the FSR landscape. We look forward to equipping you with the knowledge to tackle the EU FSR challenges.

[Register for the free webinar >>](#)



Conference

Informa CompLaw Nordic

25 - 26 March | Stockholm, Sweden

Join our Nordics competition partners [Morten Nissen](#) and [Katia Duncker](#) at the 'only truly pan-Nordic competition law forum' where you will hear directly from all the Nordic and Baltic National Competition Authorities, the European Commission, leading in-house counsel and specialised advisors, to help you understand recent developments in competition law and shape your practical strategies.

At this event Morten will speak on the evolving **concept of abuse of dominance with a focus on recent developments in the pharma sector**.

Reach out to Katia and Morten if you are attending the conference, they look forward to connecting with you.

[Register with a 20% discount here >>](#)

Bird & Bird news and publications



Metaverso. Mercato e Regole

Hot off the press: this book (in Italian) explores the concept of the Metaverse, a new technological frontier that can radically change our ways of communication, studying, working, and entertainment. It discusses its potential impacts across various sectors like gaming, shopping, education, and work, and how it will develop alongside technologies like augmented reality, AI, and blockchain, while also addressing the legal challenges it presents in terms of privacy, intellectual property, and competition.

Our Rome-based competition partner [Federico Marini Balestra](#) co-authored the chapter discussing **antitrust in the context of the metaverse**, together with the former Commissioner of the Italian Competition Authority and judge Gabriella Muscolo, and eminent law professor at La Sapienza University in Rome, Mario Libertini.

[More information on the book here >>](#)



Advocating for an inclusive legal sector

On 30 January, the Brussels and The Hague offices of Bird & Bird celebrated the 6th anniversary of the **Legal Diversity and Inclusion Alliance (LDIA)** at an event in Brussels organised in collaboration with **Stichting FORWARD, LDIA, and Live Your Story**.

Bird & Bird partner [Hein Hobbelen](#) and Chris Noordam, CEO of Stichting FORWARD, moderated an inspiring panel discussion on the advancement of fundamental LGBTQIA+ human rights, a conversation sparked by the latest EU report on LGBTQIA+ Equality.

The aim of the event was to **raise awareness** of ongoing challenges and **ignite action** toward a truly inclusive legal sector and society.

[Read more about the event here >>](#)



Antitrust Writing Awards 2025 - vote for your favourite articles!

We are delighted to share that 3 of our articles have been shortlisted for the Antitrust Writing Awards!

No-poach agreements can comply with competition – when they are not 'naked': A quick guide to ancillary no-poach agreements by [Anne Federle](#) and [Paula González Alarcón](#)

[Read the article here >>](#)

When does the hiring of another company's staff require merger control approval? by [Anne Federle](#) and [Aurélie de Amorin](#)

[Read the article here >>](#)

The Future Governance of Sports & Competition Law by [Dr. Saskia King](#), [Jose Rivas](#), [Paula González Alarcón](#) and [Quinn Liang](#)

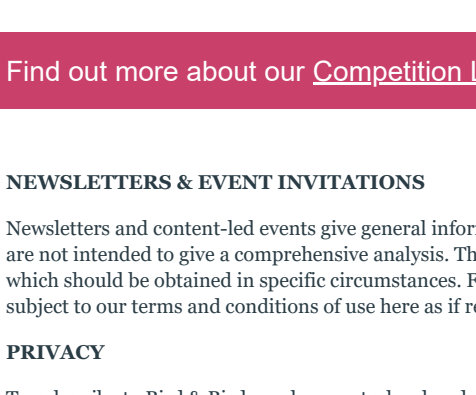
[Read the article here >>](#)

Organised by Concurrences and The George Washington University Law School's Competition Law Center, the prestigious Antitrust Writing Awards select the best antitrust writings published in the past year.

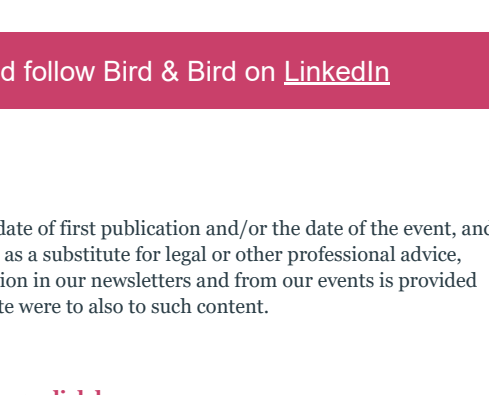
Don't forget to give your favourite article a vote!

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

Contacts



Pauline Kuipers
Partner, The Hague
Co-head of Global Competition & EU Group
+31 (0)7 0353 8810
pauline.kuipers@twobirds.com



Morten Nissen
Partner, Copenhagen
Co-head of Global Competition & EU Group
+45 2 759 3204
morten.nissen@twobirds.com

[Sign up here](#) to receive this monthly newsletter. See [previous editions here](#).

Find out more about our [Competition Law Practice](#) and follow Bird & Bird on [LinkedIn](#)

NEWSLETTERS & EVENT INVITATIONS

Newsletters and content-led events give general information only as at the date of their publication and/or the date of the event, and 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.

PRIVACY

To opt-out from Bird & Bird regular events, legal updates and newsletters please [click here](#).

To subscribe to all marketing communications from Bird & Bird please complete the form [here](#). Opting out of receiving marketing communications will not affect our continuing communications with you for the provision of our legal services.

To change your contact details or for any queries, please contact our [CRM Team](#).

This communication is personal to you. If you forward an invitation / newsletter / publication via email, you will be sharing a pre-populated form with your name and contact details. In addition, the recipient of an email forwarded marketing communication will be able to access your marketing preferences and make changes to your profile in our CRM system. We therefore advise you to use the 'Forward to a colleague' button listed at the top or bottom of this communication, which will issue the recipient with a blank form if you would like to send this on.

We make use of pixels in this email to keep track of the results in your marketing email campaigns. If you wish to disable these pixels for future emails, you can do so by turning off the images in your email client itself (Go to Settings > Mail > Block Images).

Our privacy policy, which describes how we handle personal information and the use of cookies, is available [here](#).

BIRD & BIRD

For information on the international legal practice comprising Bird & Bird LLP and its affiliated and associated businesses (together "Bird & Bird"), our offices, our members and partners, regulatory information, complaints procedure and the use of e-mail [click here](#).

Any e-mail sent from Bird & Bird may contain information which is confidential and/or privileged. Unless you are the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy or use it; please notify the sender immediately and delete it and any copies from your systems. You should protect your system from viruses etc.; we accept no responsibility for damage that may be caused by them.

Bird & Bird LLP, a limited liability partnership, registered in England and Wales with registered number OC340318, with its registered office and principal place of business at 12 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 3UP, is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, whose professional rules and code may be found [here](#).

A list of members of Bird & Bird LLP and of any non-members who are designated as partners, being lawyers or other professional staff with equivalent standing and qualifications, and of their respective professional qualifications, is open to inspection at its registered office.

[Forward to a colleague](#)