



Competitive Edge

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

In Focus



2025 and no end to the trend: Europe’s unbroken focus on vertical restraints

The European Commission’s €157 million fine against Gucci, Chloé and Loewe in October 2025 signals that resale price maintenance clearly remains on the enforcement agenda. But this decision is just one chapter in a year of continuous enforcement against vertical restraints across Europe. France’s Competition Authority has imposed record-breaking penalties totalling over €1 billion, whilst authorities in the UK, Germany, Czech Republic, Italy, Hungary and Poland have all continued scrutiny of vertical agreements. From luxury fashion to household appliances, headphones to drones, enforcement spans every sector. But what specific practices are triggering these massive fines, and how can companies design compliant distribution strategies in this heightened enforcement environment? Read the 2025 review by [Elsa Mandel Benichou](#), [Thomas Oster](#) and our EU competition group for practical guidance on navigating vertical agreements across Europe - and learn why your distribution networks may need reviewing for compliance with competition law.

[Read the full story](#)

Updates from our jurisdictions

EU

Can a competition authority share leniency applications with the public prosecutor?

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Anne Federle](#) or [David Wouters](#).

No wAI out: Competition Policy Brief confirms legal professional privilege does not extend to in-house lawyers

[Read the full story](#)

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

Belgium

Belgium issues roadmap for competition-compliant sustainability cooperation

[Read the full story](#)

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

Czech Republic

Czech Competition Act possibly to undergo major amendment: what to expect?

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Vojtěch Chloupek](#), [Kristýna Vojtěchovská](#), and [Matej Sinkovic](#).

Denmark

High risk, no reward – price coordination results in DKK 10 million fine

[Read the full story](#)

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

Finland

Trade association price recommendations under review by the Finnish Competition Authority

[Read the full story](#)

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

Germany

German Federal Cartel Office Targets Temu Over Marketplace Pricing Practices

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Stephan Waldeheim](#), [Tamy Tietze](#) or [Gitty Narymany Shandy](#).

Hungary

What’s the Buzz? Accelerated sector inquiry into the mosquito repellent market

[Read the full story](#)

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

Netherlands

Influence brings accountability: Dutch Supreme Court is advised on parental liability in the Flour Cartel

[Read the full story](#)

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

Poland

Labour market collusion in Poland's transport sector

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Marcin Alberski](#) and [Stanisław Szymanek](#).

Spain

Turning point for Spanish Merger Control – CNMC issues first–ever prohibition decision

[Read the full story](#)

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

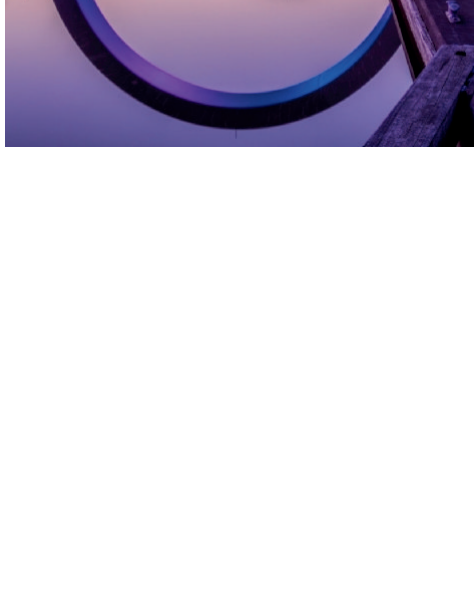
UK

No more paws for concern? CMA's provisional decision prescribes major reforms for UK veterinary sector

[Read the full story](#)

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Dr Saskia King](#) and [Tenisha Cramer](#).

Events and webinars



Webinar

Next Gen Lunch & Learn: Key Trends & Development in Competition Law

21 November | 12:00 - 13:00 GMT | Online

Ahead of the forthcoming Competition Next Gen Summit 2026, members of the Next Gen 'Law' Advisory Board, including Bird & Bird senior associate [Tjaldia Beetstra](#), will discuss key trends and developments in competition law at this complementary pre-conference webinar.

The Rising Stars of competition law practitioners from across Europe will provide you with unique insights alongside a taste of what is to come at the associated **Competition Next Gen Summit 2026** on 3-4th March 2026 in London.

Key areas of focus during the webinar will include:

- Merger Control and Deals
- Competition Developments in Digital Markets
- Antitrust Concerns in Artificial Intelligence
- Developments in Abuse of Dominance Enforcement
- Challenges Between Sustainability and Antitrust Goals
- Navigating FSR & FDI

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

[Register for the NextGen 2026 summit >>](#)



Webinar

Navigating the New Era of FDI Screening – Sensitive Sectors and Cross-Border Deals

25 November | 12:30 - 13:30 GMT | Online

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) screening is reshaping cross-border deals – are you ready?

Join our international panel of Bird & Bird FDI experts across the EU and the UK for an insightful webinar on navigating the new FDI screening landscape – and what it means for your cross-border deals.

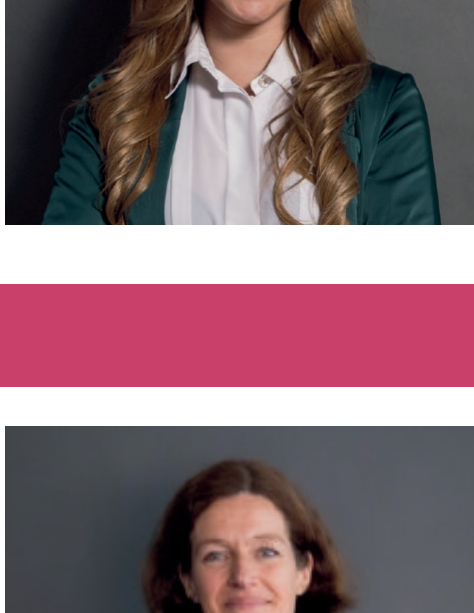
We will use real-world case studies to:

- Tackle the toughest challenges deal teams face in cross-border transactions right now
- Share insights from recent FDI reviews in key jurisdictions, including the UK and across the EU
- Provide practical guidance on structuring deals, internal re-organisations, managing timelines, remedies and avoiding common pitfalls

This session is designed for in-house counsel, M&A and private equity deal teams, as well as investment funds and companies active in sensitive sectors.

[Find out more here >>](#)

[Register here >>](#)



In-person Conference

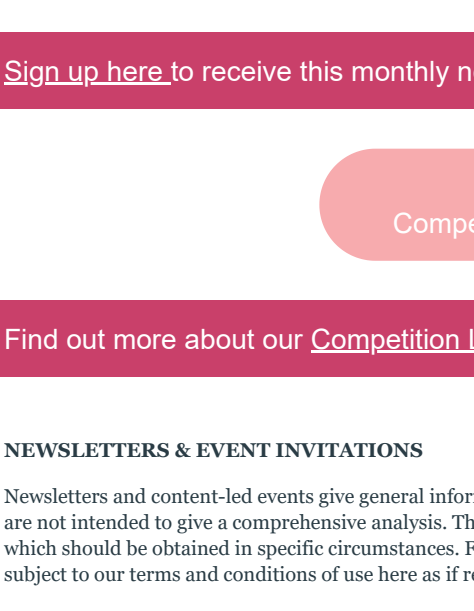
The Nordic Competition Law Summit 2025

26-27 November | Copenhagen, Denmark

Organised by Thought Leaders 4 Competition, this new pan-Nordic forum will bring together leading practitioners to discuss key regulatory and procedural developments. Our Copenhagen-based partner [Morten Nissen](#) will join the panel on *Assessing Developments in Below-Threshold Mergers*, offering insights informed by our team's recent experience with complaints before the Danish Competition and Consumer Authority. With the agenda shaped by industry experts from across the Nordics, the summit promises fresh perspectives and practical discussions on the evolving competition law landscape. Readers can use discount code **NCLSPK25** for 10% off tickets.

[Register here >>](#)

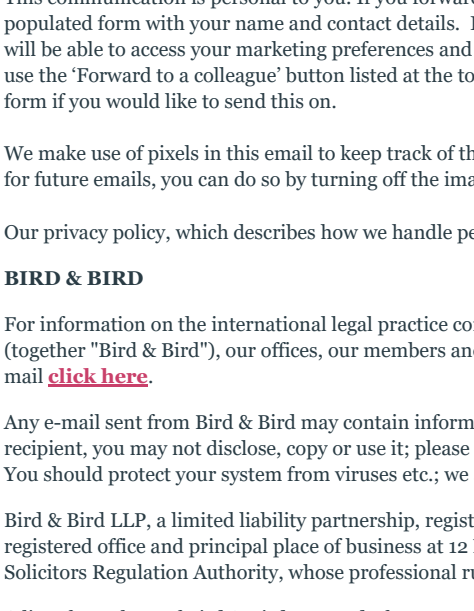
Bird & Bird news



Guide to EU and UK Pharmaceutical Regulatory Law

[Morten Nissen](#), co-head of our global Competition Law practice, [Peter Willis](#), UK partner, and [Alexander Brächner](#), senior associate, have contributed a chapter on the rapidly developing competition law area to the 'Guide to EU and UK Pharmaceutical Regulatory Law', published by Wolters Kluwer. The 9th edition of this go-to resource for anyone working in or around pharma regulation, focuses on both EU and post-Brexit UK regulation and features a brand new chapter exploring the role of AI in the regulatory space.

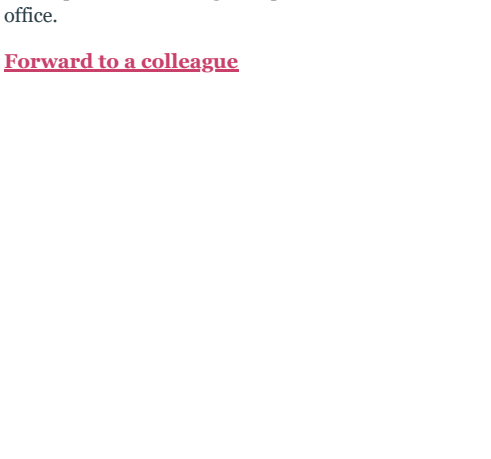
[More information here >>](#)



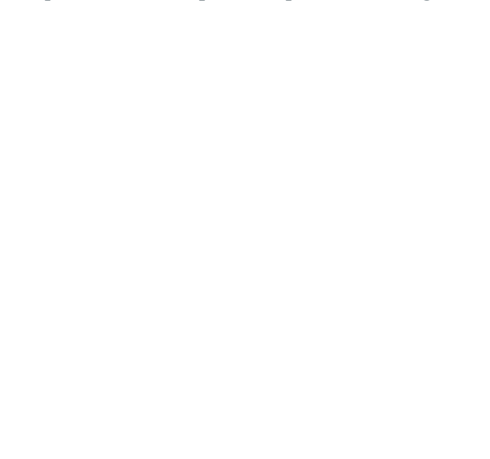
Best Lawyers: Ones to watch for Spain

Congratulations to our Madrid-based Senior Associate [Candela Sotés](#), who has been listed once again in the 2026 edition of "Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch for Spain™" in the categories Competition / Antitrust Law and European Union Law.

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](#).

Visit our [Competition Law Insights page](#)

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 first 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 include such content.

PRIVACY

To subscribe to Bird & Bird regular events, legal updates and newsletters please [click here](#).

To opt-out from 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 of our 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 3LP, 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 professionals with equivalent standing and qualifications, and of their respective professional qualifications, is open to inspection at its registered office.

[Forward to a colleague](#)