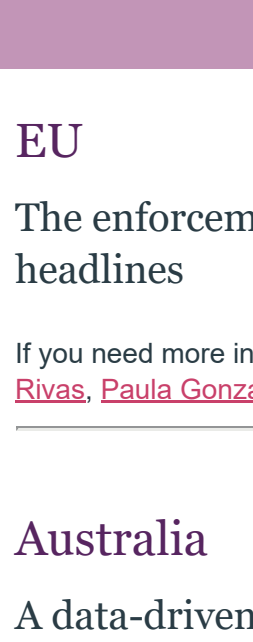




Competitive Edge

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

In Focus



The UK's Green Agreements Regime: Lessons learnt on the new sustainability frontier

In response to growing fears that UK businesses were deterred from pursuing legitimate sustainability collaborations because of competition law concerns, the UK's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) introduced the groundbreaking Green Agreements Guidance in October 2023. The Guidance establishes an open-door policy for sustainability agreements as well as a more permissive approach for climate change agreements. It highlights the CMA's commitment to facilitating the UK's transition to a net zero economy and provides a clear pathway for companies seeking to make progressive changes. However, the regime also has limitations. Nine months after it took effect and following the publication of two informal guidance decisions, we take stock of this new regime.

[Read the full story](#)

Updates from our jurisdictions

EU

The enforcement of the FSR continues to make headlines

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [José Rivas](#), [Paula González](#), and [Antonio Rodríguez](#).

[Read the full story](#)

Australia

A data-driven approach: ACCC releases report on competition and consumer issues of data products and services

For more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Thomas Jones](#), [Dylan McGill](#), and [Ruby Simpson](#).

[Read the full story](#)

Belgium

Belgian Competition Authority Outlines its 2024 Priorities

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

[Read the full story](#)

Denmark

Amendments to the Danish Competition Law result in challenging alterations

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

[Read the full story](#)

Finland

A Finnish care service provider is set to receive a fine of EUR 4.4 million for misconduct of procedural instructions within investigation

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

[Read the full story](#)

France

Very First Application by the Board of the French Competition Authority of the Towercast Ruling under the Anti-Competitive Agreements Rules

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Thomas Oster](#) and [Matthieu de Calbiac](#).

[Read the full story](#)

Overview of French decision-making practice in the video gaming industry

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Thomas Oster](#) and [Matthieu de Calbiac](#).

[Read the full story](#)

Germany

German Federal Cartel Office greenlights eco-friendly reusable plant trays scheme

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Dr. Stephan Waltheim](#) and [Maren Steier](#).

[Read the full story](#)

Hungary

Significant Changes to Numerous Competition Law Institutions

If you need more information or further guidance on the Amendment, please contact [Gábor Kutai](#) or [Kinga Kálmán](#).

[Read the full story](#)

Netherlands

Cracking the Dutch Savings Market: ACM's market study report and recommendations

For more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Pauline Kuipers](#) or [Reshmi Rampersad](#).

[Read the full story](#)

Poland

Polish video games market under scrutiny by Competition Authority

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

[Read the full story](#)

Spain

Spanish Court confirms the CJEU conclusions in the European Super League case

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

[Read the full story](#)

UK

AI regulation in the UK – where are we now?

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Dr. Saskia King](#), [Kate Denison](#), [Katerina Tassi](#), [Gavin Punia](#), [Thomas Hepplewhite](#), [Matthew Ruckwell](#), [Michael Rudd](#), [Kathryn Parker](#), [Simon Phippard](#) or [Roger Bickerslatf](#).

[Read the full story](#)

Probing Paws: CMA Launches Full Market Investigation into UK's Veterinary Sector

If you need more information or further guidance in this area, please contact [Dr. Saskia King](#), [Pieter Erasmus](#), [Graeme Payne](#), [Shelley Nadler](#).

[Read the full story](#)

Events and webinars




The Law Society Conference International Antitrust Summer Conference 2024

26 June | London, UK

Join this conference in London, where industry experts will be leading interactive discussions on global issues in competition law, providing attendees with the latest updates on enforcement priorities, policy changes and other interesting insights. Our London-based Senior Associate [Ariane Le Strat](#) will be chairing a panel on *Sustainability and horizontal cooperation*.

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




In-person seminar Contract Law Seminar Series – Media, Entertainment & Sport

26 June | London, UK

Join us for a Contract Law Seminar for Media, Entertainment & Sports lawyers, where our partners [Andrew White](#), [Ian Edwards](#), [Emma Drake](#) and [Dr. Saskia King](#) will provide you with in-depth, up-to-date information, combined with practical and commercially focused insights. Topics that will be covered include developments in limitation of liability, good faith, force majeure, contracting for AI, data protection, competition law for commercial contracts and other key areas.

The seminar will be followed by networking drinks.

[More information and registration here >>](#)



ERA - Academy of European Law Summer Course on European Antitrust Law

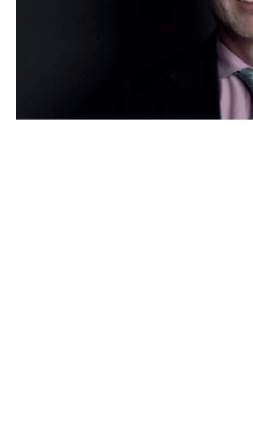
1 - 5 July | Trier, Germany

This course provides participants with a thorough understanding of the basics of EU antitrust law and a comprehensive update on the latest developments in each field.

On 5 July, our Brussels-based competition partner [Hein Hoobelen](#) and counsel [Bartist Viesshouwers](#) will present on *The Commission's leniency policy: a key tool in the fight against cartels* and lead a simulation exercise to raise awareness of potential procedural issues during a dawn raid.

[More information about the course >>](#)

[Full programme and speakers >>](#)



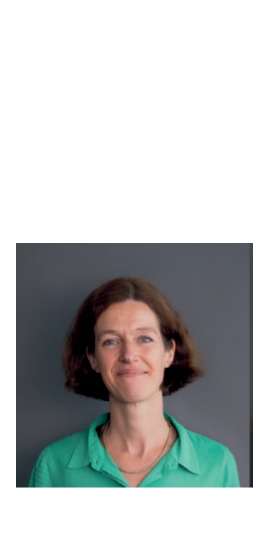
Conference CompLaw Summer School

5 - 9 August | Downing College, Cambridge, UK

Two of our partners will be speaking at the 26th edition of Informa's all-inclusive, residential event covering EU and UK competition law and competition economics. This event aims to provide a robust understanding of competition law, offering intensive lectures, practical discussions, in-depth Q&As and real-life case studies. Attendees will learn from top minds in competition law and economics, stay updated on developing hot topics and have the chance to network with peers and experts.

[Anne Federle](#) will present on *Hard Core Cartels & the EU Leniency Programme* and [Dr. Saskia King](#) will speak on *Merger Control, providing a Practical Guide to Merger Proceedings* and leading a case study.

[Use our VIP code to register for the conference with a 20% discount >>](#)



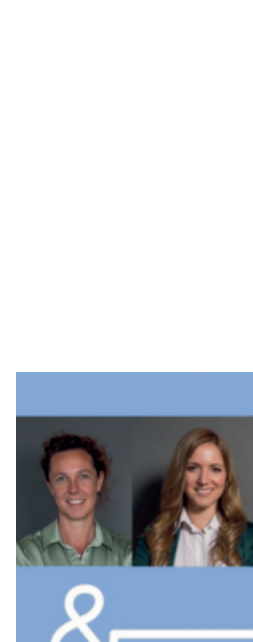
Online course ERA Summer Course on EU Digital and Information Technology Law

9 - 13 September | Online

This course offers legal practitioners a thorough introduction to the legal and institutional framework of EU digital and IT law, focusing on emerging technologies such as AI and Internet of Things, and EU initiatives on access to data in the digital environment.

[Pauline Kuipers](#) will share her knowledge and experience in the session titled *Competition law aspects, digital platforms, AI and big data*, covering the DMA, competition law in the IT, AI and in the digital sectors.

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



Conference - Recordings Swedish Competition Authority's 23rd annual Pros and Cons conference

On 20 May, our Dutch Competition partner [Pauline Kuipers](#) discussed the *Pros and Cons of New Competition Tools* on a panel at the annual Pros and Cons conference organised by the Swedish Competition Authority (Konkurrensverket) in Stockholm.

The conference featured a keynote speech by [Martin Coleman](#), the CMA Panel Chair, and panels were moderated by [Evelin Párrn-Lee](#) (DG of the Estonian NCA), [Richard Whish](#) (Kings College) and [Eva Edwardsson](#) (Swedish judge). [Pauline](#) joined Panel 3: *The Optimal Design of a New Tool*.


[View recordings from the conference sessions here >>](#)

Bird & Bird news and publications



Takeaways from recent seminar Key Trends in UK Competition Law Enforcement

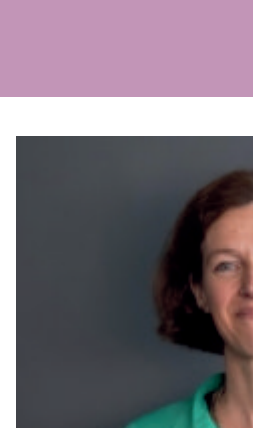
At this event, held in our London office on 14 May, our guest speakers [Bethan Watts](#) (CMA) [Marc Braithwaite](#) (CA), [Richard Neville](#) (Warner Bros. Discovery) and [Eliza Petritsi](#) (Deutsche Bank) discussed the impact of AI, sustainability, as well as the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill on competition law enforcement. The discussion took place under [Chatham House Rules](#), but we prepared a short summary of key takeaways for you to [read here >>](#).



Main Developments in Competition Law and Policy 2023 – The Netherlands

This article authored by [Pauline Kuipers](#) and [Reshmi Rampersad](#) was recently published on the [Kluwer Competition Law Blog](#).

[Read the full article here >>](#)




Top ranked in Germany

Congratulations to partner [Dr. Stephan Waltheim](#) for his recognition in *WirtschaftsWoche* as one of the best Antitrust lawyers of 2024. *WirtschaftsWoche* is one of Germany's most well-known economic weekly newspapers.

[Bird & Bird](#) was also recognised as "Top law firm 2024" in this publication.

[Read more here >>](#)



Best Lawyers in Germany

Congratulations to our Dusseldorf - and Munich - based associate [Dr. Florian Hinderer](#), who has been selected for inclusion in the 2024 edition of **Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in Germany™** for his 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.

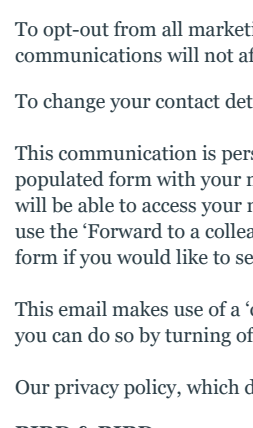


Asia's Leading Satellite Conference

The head of our Sydney competition law team, [Thomas Jones](#) recently spoke on a panel at the Satellite Industry Forum in Singapore on 28th May. The year 2023 was a volatile year in the space industry for financing and insurance, but also a year in which new business models tended to pick up momentum. The panel discussed what trends we could expect to see in the near future.

Thomas is a telecommunications regulatory and competition law specialist, and co-heads Bird & Bird's global Satellites and Space Activities Group. He also co-leads the well-established Technology and Communications sector group in Bird & Bird Australia and has recently been recognised by "Who's Who Legal" as a Global Elite Thought Leader in Telecoms and Media.

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

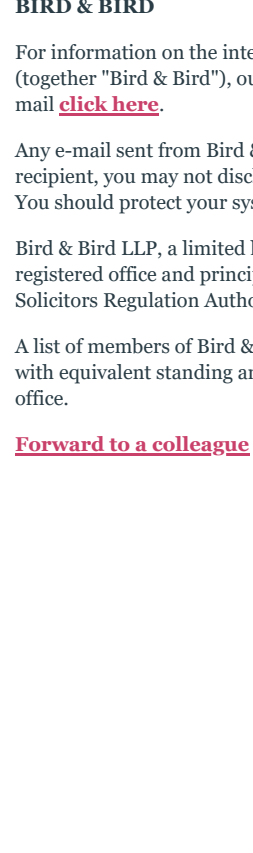


Article on AI and competition law published in Dutch journal

The article *Artificial Intelligence: een nieuwe dimensie voor mededinging en toezicht?* written by our partner [Pauline Kuipers](#) and associate [Reshmi Rampersad](#) was published in the Dutch journal *Mededingingsrecht in de Praktijk* (MPJ). In this piece the authors discuss the regulation of AI and its impact on the application of competition law. They also cover the competition law risks of AI.

Feel free to reach out to the authors if you would like more information or a translation of the article.

[Full article here \(paywall\) >>](#)



Mondaq Thought Leadership Awards - Spring 2024

We are delighted to announce that two of our articles have received the **Mondaq Thought Leadership Award - Spring 2024**. These articles were the most popular with readers on the Mondaq platform in the past six months, in the Antitrust/Competition law category.

Congratulations to the authors!

- The new EU regime for horizontal agreements: Standardisation agreements - Sleeping Beauty Awakened or The Emperor's New Clothes?* by [Tanny Tietze](#), [Dr. Stephan Waltheim](#) (Germany) and [Candela Sotés](#) (Spain). [Read the article here](#)
- The new EU regime for horizontal agreements: What's new about Joint purchasing agreements/buying alliances* by [Janneke Kohlen](#) (Netherlands). [Read the article here](#)

[See all the winning authors and their articles here >>](#)

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

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