SESSIONS CONFERENCE DAY 1 - 24/06/2021

Vertical Restraints and Distribution Conference

24 June 2021 Virtual Conference

Delivered Live (CEST Time) & On-Demand Afterwards

Introduction to the Platform & Virtual Networking

08:30 - 09:00

Chair's Welcome and Introduction

09:00 - 09:10

Review of the Vertical Block Exemption Regulation including the Working Paper on the Dual Role of Commercial Agents

09:10 - 09:40 Vertical Block Exemption Regulation

· What are the issues at stake?

- Working Paper on the dual role of commercial agents – what counts as agency?
- The future of VBER including timelines

Participants

Kassiani Christodoulou - Case Handler, Unit C2 -Antitrust: Media, DG Competition, European Commission

Retailers' vs Manufacturers' Perspectives on the Vertical Block Exemption Regulation

09:40 - 10:20 Vertical Block Exemption Regulation

- What would retailers, manufacturers and platform providers like to see changed and how?
- Practical implications of the proposals
- Do the proposals make sense in the digital world, especially post-Covid?

Participants

Emma Trogen - Director Legal Affairs, Cosmetics Europe

Christel Delberghe - Director, Competitiveness and Commercial Relations, EuroCommerce

Virtual Networking Break in the Networking Lounge

10:20 - 10:40 Vertical Block Exemption Regulation

Join the Roundtables in the Networking Area to connect with fellow attendees either through Video or Chat Function. Check out the list of attendees and schedule 1:1 meetings or take advantage of our interest-led networking app suggesting attendees for you to connect with based on your shared interests and background. Take time to visit our sponsors' booths to read their insightful White Papers and to learn more about their thought leadership. Click on a sponsor logo to access content and video chat with a representative.

Update on Recent Vertical Cases: Video Games Decisions

10:40 - 11:10

Enforcement Trends & Developments

Update on the video games casesWhat lessons can be learnt from them

Participants

Sara Bacchio - Case Handler, DG Competition, European Commission

National Enforcement in Key Jurisdictions

11:10 - 12:30 Enforcement Trends & Developments

- Germany booking decision and MFNs
- France joint purchasing, Lego and Dammann Frères cases
- Netherlands
- Spain including Adidas and Telefonica case and restrictions on passive sales
- Denmark Hugo Boss (D2C) case
- Wildcard: Turkey: what EU based businesses' need to know
- Review of ongoing investigations against Amazon

How is the CMA approaching Vertical Restraints post-Brexit?

12:30 - 13:00

Enforcement Trends & Developments

- Review of recent cases including UK comparison websites
- Digital consultation: what are the implications for Vertical Restraints
- How will vertical restraints evolve in the UK post Brexit?
- Brexit: implications for exhaustion of trademarks

Virtual Networking Break in the Networking Lounge

13:00 - 14:00

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Big Tech, Distribution & Dominance Concerns

14:00 - 14:45 Big Tech, Dominance & Dual Distribution

- Review of current big tech and vertical restraints cases including the German and Italian ongoing cases for Amazon / Apple
- Lawful bundling of purchasing power and tough negotiations vs abusive exploitation of purchasing power
- How to deal with dominant / powerful customers?
- Competition law vs industrial policy: is online still great or are there concerns regarding the growing power of online players and decline of city shopping centre? What can competition law do to address them? Is competition law behind industrial policy concerns?
- Relative dominance what can purchasers do towards manufacturer? Impact on parallel trade
- Territorial supply constraints DG GROW investigations and Mondelez case

Participants

Agustin Reyna - Director, Legal and Economic Affairs, BEUC

Anselm Rodenhausen - Lead Antitrust & Distribution Law, Zalando SE

The Future of Dual Distribution: Considering DMA and VBER Proposals in Detail

14:45 - 15:30

Big Tech, Dominance & Dual Distribution

- What are the proposals in the VBER consultation?
- Proposals in the DMA: retailers as gatekeepers
 How does VBER and DMA fit together?
- What is an agent? What is DG Comp reasoning?

Virtual Networking Break in the Networking Lounge

15:30 - 15:50

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Selective Distribution

15:50 - 16:30 Distribution in Practice

- How is the Commission approaching selective distribution? Why is it not covered in the VBER?
- Transparency of criteria and non-discrimination
- The challenge to defining online requirements
 Enforcement of networks how can brand owned
- Enforcement of networks how can brand owners go after unauthorised retailers?

Information Exchange in Distribution Networks

16:30 - 17:10 Distribution in Practice

- What information can and cannot be exchanged
- Implications for corporate compliance

Participants

Robert Schulz - Head of Legal- Sales and Marketing, BSH Hausgeräte GmbH

Retail Price Maintenance (RPM) and Geoblocking

17:10 - 17:50 Distribution in Practice

- Review of recent cases in online sales restrictions
- Territorial restrictions in trade ark and copyright licensing including merchandising, broadcasting cases and the video games case
- Geoblocking including foreign websites: are they compliant?

Participants

Christophe Roy - Director of European Affairs, CANAL+

Chair's Closing Remarks and Close of Conference

17:50 - 18:00

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