



COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION
OF COMPETITION



University
of Cyprus

Cyprus Conference on Competition Law Key Trends and Developments

Nicosia | Friday, 8 March 2024
8:30 – 16:00

Room 010,
Social Facilities Centre (SFC 07)
University Campus
(1 University Avenue, 2109 Aglantzia)
The conference will be held in English.

Cyprus Conference on Competition Law: Key Trends and Developments

8 March 2024

Amid a whirlwind of developments in competition law, the Commission for the Protection of Competition of Cyprus in cooperation with the University of Cyprus are organising the «Cyprus Conference on Competition Law: Key trends and Developments» that will take place on Friday 8th March, 2024, at the campus of the University of Cyprus.

The conference will provide lawyers, legal practitioners, academics and law students with a comprehensive update on the most important developments in the field of competition law and policy. The conference will feature distinguished speakers from Cyprus and abroad, who will share their valuable knowledge, experience and expertise in their respective areas.

We are delighted to have as a keynote speaker of the conference Professor Richard Whish, Emeritus Professor of Law at King's College London and King's Counsel Honoris Causa, who will discuss all the latest developments regarding Article 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

We are also very pleased to have as a speaker the Honorable Judge Ms. Anna Marcoulli, President of the Second Chamber and Judge of the General Court of the European Union who will address 'The role of the EU courts in the development of competition law'.

The conference will also bring together representatives of national competition authorities, officials of the European Commission's DG Competition, as well as private practitioners who will share their knowledge and expertise on a number of topical issues. This formidable roster features eminent individuals such as Harsdorf-Borsch Natalie (Dr.) (Head of the Austrian Competition Authority), Gavala Athanasia (Head of the Directorate-General for Competition of the Hellenic Competition Commission), Sinovas Caballero Sergio (Head of the Industry and Energy Unit, Competition Directorate of the Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission), Capiou Jeroen (Policy Officer of DG Comp), Stephanou Sophia (Case Handler of DG Comp), Moundis George (President of the Competition Law Committee of the Cyprus Bar Association) and Panayides Polyvios (Member of the Competition Law Committee of the Cyprus Bar Association).

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CONFERENCE AGENDA

8.30-9.00 Registration and welcome coffee

9.00- 9.30 Welcome Addresses:

Chairperson of the Commission for the Protection of Competition, Ms. Eva Pantzari

Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, Mr. George Papanastasiou

Rector of the University of Cyprus, Professor Tasos Christofides

9.30-10.30 Keynote Speech by Professor Richard Whish, Emeritus Professor of Law at King's College London and King's Counsel Honoris Causa

' Article 102 TFEU: What Lies ahead?' - 45'

Q&A – 10'

10.30-11.10 Presentation by Ms. Sophia Stephanou, European Commission, DG Competition

' Evaluation of Regulation 1/2003: 20 years of enforcement under the Modernisation Regulation' - 30'

Q&A – 10'

11.10-11.40 Coffee Break

11.40-12.40 Presentation by Honorable Judge Anna Marcoulli, General Court EU

'The role of the EU courts in the development of competition law' - 45'

Q&A – 10'

12.40-13.20 Presentation by Mr. Jeroen Capiou, European Commission, DG Competition

'Competition Law and Sustainability Agreements - The case of the agri-food sector' -30'

Q&A – 10'

13.20 -14.10 Lunch Break

14.10-14.50 Presentation by Mr. Polyvios Panayides, Member of the Competition Law Committee of the Cyprus Bar Association, Partner at Chrysses Demetriades & Co. LLC

"The revised Vertical Block Exemption Regulation ('VBER') and Vertical Guidelines – Key takeaways" - 30'

Q&A – 10'

14.50-15.50 Panel discussion

"Beyond Borders: Trends, challenges, enforcement priorities, and international cooperation" - 50'

Moderator:

Mr. George Moundis, President of the Competition Law Committee of the Cyprus Bar Association, Co-Managing Partner at Chrysostomides Advocates and Legal Consultants

Panelists

Dr. Natalie Harsdorf-Borsch, Director General of the Competition Authority - Austria

Ms. Athanasia Gavala, Head of the Directorate-General for Competition - Greece

Mr. Sergio Sinovas Caballero, Head of the Industry and Energy Unit, Competition Directorate, Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission CNMC -Spain

Ms. Eva Pantzari, Chairperson of the Commission for the Protection of Competition - Cyprus

15.50-16.00 Closing Remarks



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SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Learn more about our speakers who are listed below according to their presentation sessions:

Richard Whish is Emeritus Professor of Law at King's College London; in 2014 he was appointed KC Honoris Causa. He was a non-executive director of the Office of Fair Trading in the UK from 2003 to 2009, and a non-executive director of the Singaporean Energy Markets Authority from 2005 to 2011. He is the co-author, with David Bailey, of *Competition Law*, 10th edition 2021 (OUP), and the author of many other books, articles, case-notes and book reviews on various aspects of international competition law and policy.

Sophia Stephanou is a case handler in antitrust case support and policy at the Directorate General for Competition. Prior to this, she was an advisor to the Hearing Officers for competition proceedings. Before joining the European Commission, Ms. Stephanou worked for several years as a competition lawyer in international law firms and at the former UK competition authority as a principal case officer. She holds an LLB and LLM from the University of Bristol and an MA in Economics for Competition Law from King's College London.

Anna Marcoulli was born in 1974 in Nicosia (Cyprus); she graduated in law from the University of East Anglia (United Kingdom) in 1995 and obtained a Master of Laws from the University of Bristol (United Kingdom) in 1996. She was admitted to the Cyprus Bar in 1997 and joined the Legal Service of the Republic of Cyprus as a member of the European Union Section of the Legal Service, where she worked from 1998 to 2008. In 2005, she began working at the Court of Justice of the European Communities as a seconded national expert in the Research and Documentation Division and held that position until 2007. She then joined the Legal Service of the European Commission from 2008 to 2016. In 2012, she participated in the management of the tasks carried out by the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union, holding the position of Legal Adviser. Ms. Marcoulli was appointed as a Judge at the General Court of the European Union on 13 April 2016. She was elected President of the Chamber by her peers on 30 September 2019 and has held that position since that date.

Jeroen Capiou joined the Directorate General for Competition of the European Commission in 2009. He is currently a policy officer in the unit that provides upstream support to case teams throughout all case stages and contributes to the development of Union competition policy. He worked on the review of the Horizontal Guidelines on the parts dealing with purchasing and sustainability agreements. In DG Competition, he also worked as a case handler on cases in the food sector and in the unit responsible for the European Competition Network. Before joining the Commission, Jeroen worked for the Belgian Competition Authority, first, as a case handler in the investigation branch, and later became a member of the decision-making branch. Before working in the area of competition enforcement, he was a teaching assistant at the European Law Institute of the University of Ghent and worked for an EU trade association in the telecom sector.

Polyvios Panayides is a partner at Chrysses Demetriades & Co. LLC and a member of the Competition Law Committee of the Cyprus Bar Association. Polyvios' practice covers antitrust cases, merger control notifications and advisory work in relation to supply & distribution agreements and joint ventures with experience in markets relevant to shipping, marine services, fuels & energy and consumer goods. He also acts as counsel in commercial disputes before courts and arbitral tribunals with his cases often involving competition law issues and disputes concerning distribution agreements. Polyvios brings particular expertise from his former position as a European Commission official in Brussels, from 2005 to 2010 where he was involved in a number of high-profile antitrust and merger control investigations predominantly in the energy sector. Polyvios graduated from the University of East Anglia (UK) and obtained an LL.M in European & Comparative law from the University of Maastricht. Before being admitted to the Cyprus Bar, he was called to the Bar of England & Wales.

George Mountis is Co-Managing Partner at Chrysostomides Advocates & Legal Consultants and President of the Competition Law Committee of the Cyprus Bar Association. He heads the litigation and dispute resolution department as well as the competition law team at Chrysostomides Advocates & Legal Consultants. He has a leading role in the handling of the major high-profile commercial and corporate litigation cases undertaken by the firm such as major shareholders disputes, multi-million commercial and corporate fraud, injunctions and insolvency proceedings. He is also regularly involved in antitrust law cases and advisory work on competition law. Among other matters, George has acted for two companies from the Cyprus dairy industry in proceedings before the Cyprus Commission for the Protection of Competition relating to allegations of abuse of dominant position. George and his team further acted for an international bank in anti-trust proceedings before the Commission in relation to practices in the retail banking market, as well as one of the world's biggest car manufacturers, both before the Commission for the Protection of Competition as well as the Administrative Court of Cyprus. George regularly undertakes the filing of notifications of concentrations of undertakings and advises local and international clients on regulatory matters relevant to their industry. He also holds a post graduate diploma on economics of competition law which, together with his wide practice on the matter, allow him to examine in depth complex law and economics competition law issues.

Natalie Harsdorf-Borsch (Dr.) heads the Austrian Competition Authority acting since December 2021. Before that she held different roles in the agency such as Deputy Director General, Managing Director, Head of Legal service as well as team leader and case handler. Since 2019 she serves as coordinator for the OECD Competition Bureau vis-à-vis UNCTAD. Harsdorf-Borsch studied Law at the Universities of Vienna and Dublin and also holds a law degree of the College of Europe in Bruges. Secondments to the European Court of Justice, the Canadian Competition Bureau and the European Commission added to her professional experience in competition law. In 2016 she was voted by Global Competition Review one of 26 Top Women enforcers worldwide. In 2022 she was recognized as Austrian lawyer as first woman in public service. She is also a co-founder of the women competition network Austria and author of numerous publications on competition law.

Athanasia Gavala took office on 15.11.2021 as the Head of the Directorate-General for Competition of the Hellenic Competition Commission. She has long expertise in competition law and her professional experience covers a wide range of economic sectors. She has worked in Greece and in multinational law firms in Brussels, where she was promoted to Counsel in 2021. During her ten-year service in Brussels, she has led working groups that have handled significant mergers and acquisitions under Articles 101/102 TFEU before the European Commission and other competition authorities. She has also provided advice on a variety of EU competition law issues, including horizontal cooperation agreements, consortia, abuse of a dominant position, vertical distribution agreements, exchange of information between competitors, legal assessment and documentation of concentrations, planning and implementation of remedies. She graduated from the Law School of the Ethnikon kai Kapodistriakon Panepistimion Athinon, from which she obtained a master's degree in Commercial Law. She has also received a second master's degree (LL.M.) in Corporation Law from New York University Law School, where she was admitted on scholarship. During her master's studies, she worked as legal trainee at the Attorney General's Office in New York.

Sergio Sinovas Caballero is Head of the Industry and Energy Unit, Competition Directorate of the Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission CNMC (since August 2018). Mr. Sinovas has served as Co- chair of the Merger Working Group ICN (May 2019- April 2022), as Deputy Head of the Cartel and Leniency Unit (2012- July 2018) of the Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC), as Case Handler in the Cartel Leniency Unit (2008-2012) of the Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC). He has a Law Degree from San Pablo CEU University, a Business Administration Degree from UNED University, and Magister Legum LL.M. from Augsburg University-Germany. He has been a National Civil Servant since 2005.

Eva Pantzari was appointed as Chairperson of the Commission for the Protection of Competition of the Republic of Cyprus on June 15, 2023. She was born in Nicosia in 1968 and is a graduate of the English School, Nicosia. She studied Law in the United Kingdom and obtained the title of Barrister of Laws (LLB Hons). She then obtained the title of Barrister at Law from the Inns of Court School of Law, London, as a member of Gray's Inn in England. She worked in the legal department of Bank of Cyprus in London during the period 1990 – 1992. She was admitted to the Cyprus Bar Association in 1993 after successfully completing the Cyprus Bar examination. She practiced as a lawyer in the private sector since 1994 specializing in civil and corporate law until her appointment as Chairperson of the Commission for the Protection of Competition of the Republic of Cyprus.



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