

## SAVE THE DATE(S)

### 16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE GCLC

*Ex post assessment of European competition enforcement:  
Did agency intervention restore competition in the market?*

**29 January – 5 February – 12 February 2021**

**Virtual Conference**

*The GCLC's Annual Conference for 2021 is breaking with tradition. This year we will present the results of a research project that the GCLC ran in the past year on ex post assessment of competition enforcement in Europe. Working groups were asked to conduct retrospective reviews of five different decisional areas: (i) the Microsoft cases, (ii) the payment systems cases, (iii) the buyer power mergers, (iv) the pharmaceutical parallel trade cases and (v) the rebates cases. Each working group was composed of two "hubs", who acted as rapporteurs, and a number of "spokes", who are eminent experts in each of these areas. The research project was also based on a horizontal methodological report that supplied common guidelines to the working groups on ways to evaluate ex post competition enforcement.*

*Ex post analysis of competition law decisional choices and of whether the approach adopted proved to be sound is a topic that has recently acquired increased importance, although competition authorities generally find it hard to perform. From a policy point of view, it poses a number of critical questions: Have past competition policy interventions or non-interventions delivered? Have competition agencies restored or safeguarded market competition? If decisional errors have been made by antitrust decision makers, what can we learn from past mistakes? As important as they are, those fundamental questions are often neglected in the competition policy discussion. The topic also relates to the estimation of the benefits of competition enforcement in general and to the analysis whether the costs of enforcement are justified in light of the benefits it produces.*

*At this unprecedented conference, economists, business scientists, legal practitioners and enforcers will use the benefit of hindsight to review past competition cases. The event will run online over three consecutive Fridays.*

**DAY 1 – 29 January 2021**  
**14:00-18:30**

- 14:00-14:10 Welcome Address  
14:10-14:20 Presentation of the Conference  
14:20-14:45 General Report on ex post assessment of competition law enforcement  
14:45-16.35 First Research Group – Report & Discussion  
The *Microsoft* Cases  
16:40-18.30 Second Research Group – Report & Discussion  
The Payment Card Cases

**DAY 2 – 5 February 2021**  
**14:30-18:30**

- 14:30-16.30 Third Research Group – Report & Discussion  
The Buyer Power Merger Cases  
16:30-18.30 Fourth Research Group – Report & Discussion  
The Pharmaceutical Parallel Trade Cases

**DAY 3 – 12 February 2021**  
**14:30-18:30**

- 14:30-16.30 Fifth Research Group – Report & Discussion  
The Rebates Cases (*Michelin I* and *II* and *Virgin/BA*)  
16:30-18.30 Taking Stock: Enforcers' Panel

Attendance of the conference will be free but registration is required.