

Editorial foreword

The editorial board is pleased to present the first volume of the **YEARBOOK OF ANTITRUST AND REGULATORY STUDIES (YARS)** published by the newly established Centre of Antitrust and Regulatory Studies (CSAiR) which is part of the University of Warsaw Faculty of Management. More detailed information about CSAiR can be found at www.wz.uw.edu.pl. The YARS publication series provides a platform for the wider presentation and analysis of the problems and achievements of the Polish antitrust and regulation fields, viewed from both the legal and the economic perspective. The YARS periodical is intended to:

- **present** the most important and current issues surrounding **competition protection**, mainly restrictive practices and mergers but also state aid, and **pro-competitive sector-specific regulation**, mainly in the telecommunications, postal services, energy and transport sectors;
- **focus on** the underlying assumptions, experiences and achievements of competition protection and sector-specific regulation in **Poland**, taking into consideration the consequences of Poland's membership of the European Union, OECD and WTO;
- **contain papers written primarily by Polish authors**: academics, legal practitioners and consultants, judges and civil servants (including Polish staff of the EU institutions), mostly **lawyers and economists**; each volume of YARS will additionally contain a **guest article** written by a foreign lawyer or economist concerning issues of relevance to the subject matter of this periodical;
- **introduce** the Polish antitrust and regulation field **to foreign readers**: academics, legal practitioners, consultants as well as the staff of public authorities and courts dealing with antitrust and regulatory cases in other countries.

This periodical is mainly directed at foreign readers. The editorial board hopes that it will prove of interest particularly because it concerns problems occurring in the “new” part of Europe. Therefore, the contributions contained in this periodical will have to be viewed from the perspective of the fact that 20 years ago Poland entered a profound economic and political transformation process, ultimately joining the European Union 5 years ago. The enactment of the first Polish Antimonopoly Act and the establishment of its first Antimonopoly Authority in 1990 paved the way for Poland to start solving its post-socialist monopolisation problems; trade was liberalised, the freedom of economic activity strongly supported, monopolistic practices were intervened against and a level playing field for competition was created. At the same time, independent regulatory authorities

endorsed with powers of pro-competitive and pro-consumer regulation were created in sectors dominated by incumbents. As academics and practitioners, many of those involved in the creation of CSAiR and YARS have actively participated in this process in a support and advisory capacity; never however losing sight of our own role as competition advocates.

The editorial board hopes that the YARS publication series will contribute to the global legal and economic field of antitrust and regulatory studies. YARS is meant to provide the Polish academic field with an information exchange platform with institutions conducting research and development in this field, especially in the European context. In fact, YARS is intended to be the “Polish connector” for institutions of similar character and focus within the global legal and economic antitrust and regulation community. For this reason, distinguished academic professors and individuals from outside the academic field from Poland as well as abroad will be invited to join the Advisory Board of YARS. As the publisher of YARS, CSAiR remains open to enter into any type of co-operation, be it of an academic or practical nature, with any institutions resembling CSAiR and with any periodicals that are concerned with a similar subject matter to YARS. As the founder and editor-in-chief of YARS, I take full responsibility for the fulfilment of these goals.

Each of the volumes of YARS will contain several original papers which will undergo a review process by two anonymous and independent reviewers. Each of the volumes of the periodical will contain a review of relevant **legislation and jurisprudence, case comments, books reviews, and reports** concerning relevant academic events such as conferences or workshops in the antitrust and regulatory field, including activities of CSAiR. More detailed information about the basic concept of YARS, the review criteria and form, as well as the general call for papers can be found on the official website of CSAiR (www.wz.uw.edu.pl).

YARS 2008 vol. 1(1) contains a guest paper written by Professor Ian S. Forrester QC, and Anthony Dawes. The editorial board appreciates their outstanding contribution. The main part of the current volume of YARS contains six original papers written by Polish authors that deal with key current problems of Polish antitrust or regulation. The editorial board is grateful for all of these contributions, especially considering the special challenges that face authors of a new and foreign language periodical. Additionally, YARS 2008 vol. 1(1) contains EC and Polish legislation and jurisprudence reviews, ten commentaries on key judgments of Polish courts in antitrust and regulatory matters, two book reviews and several reports concerning relevant academic events organised by CSAiR in 2007. The editorial board wishes to thank all of the authors. Finally, the editorial board would like to express its gratitude to Prof. Dr. Alojzy Z. Nowak, the Dean of the University of Warsaw Faculty of Management for his continuing support of this project.

The editorial board wishes that YARS will become an important and useful part of legal and economic libraries concerning antitrust and regulatory issues, providing them with a much needed insight into the workings of a “new” EU Member State.

Warsaw, December 2008.

Tadeusz Skoczny
Editor-in-chief