

Editorial foreword

The Editorial Board is pleased to present the 11th volume of the Yearbook of Antitrust and Regulatory Studies (YARS 2015, 8(11)). This volume continues YARS's new mission – presenting developments in antitrust and sector-specific regulation not only in Central and Eastern Europe, as originally envisaged, but also in the Balkans and Caucasus region. YARS has thus invited, for the very first time, authors from Georgia.

The first article in YARS 2015, 8(11) was written by Zurab Gvelesiani. The paper concerns the problem of the need and the necessity of the existence of competition law specifically in small economies (relatively small countries). The problem is presented with reference to the case of Georgia where competition law was abolished in 2005 only to be later re-established (as described in another paper contained in the current volume).

Two following papers are dedicated to the development of private enforcement of competition law – Raimundas Mojsejevas wrote about Lithuania while Maciej Gac focused on Poland. Both authors stress the rather poor condition of this method of antitrust enforcement in Lithuania and Poland, specially comparing to some other EU Member States. They also try to identify the main barriers to making private enforcement more common in their countries of origin.

In his paper, Marcin Kulesza analyzes Polish legislation and enforcement practice on leniency in a wider European context. Polish leniency is quite specific as it covers not only cartels but also vertical restraints. The author tries to make a comparison between Polish legal solutions and the Leniency Model Programme introduced by the European Competition Network.

Special attention should be paid to articles presenting competition law developments in two Balkan countries: Albania (Ermal Nazifi and Petrina Broka) and Kosovo (Orhan Ceku). The two papers create a unique opportunity to broaden foreign knowledge on the legislation and jurisprudence of some of the youngest antitrust regimes in Europe.

The final article in the current volume of YARS is also the only one concerning problems of sector-specific regulation. The author, Ewa Kwiatkowska, delivers a thorough and interesting presentation of economic

determinants of regulatory decisions in the Polish telecommunications sector.

The current volume of YARS contains also a number of legislative and jurisprudential reviews. It opens with a paper by Tadeusz Skoczny (CARS Director, YARS Editor-in-Chief) focusing on a crucial amendment to the Polish Act on Competition and Consumer Protection that entered into force in January 2015. Solomon Menabdishvili presents recent changes to Georgian competition law that resulted from the EU Association Agreement. Petra Joanna Pipková and Ivo Šimeček draw the readers' attention to new procedural notices issued by the Czech Office for the Protection of Competition (on leniency, settlement, alternative problem resolution). Raimundas Moisejevas and Monika Dapkute consider amendments to Lithuanian competition law in 2013. Finally, Hanna Stakhyeva reviews rules for protecting legal professional privilege in the EU, Turkey and Ukraine.

The next part of YARS 2015, 8(11) is devoted to case comments. They include a discussion on the objectives of competition law and the effective conduct of infringement proceedings in judgments rendered by a court in Bosnia and Hercegovina (Alexandr Svetlicini); an analysis of Slovak jurisprudence on bid rigging (Ondrej Blažo and Silvia Sramelova); an assessment of a judgment of the Polish Supreme Court delivered in an vertical price agreement case (Małgorzata Sieradzka) and; an analysis of another judgment delivered by the Polish Supreme Court but this time regarding rules of due process in Polish antitrust procedure (Dariusz Aziewicz).

In its book review section, the current volume of YARS presents the reviews of one competition law book published in Poland in 2013 and 2015, as well as two such books published in Ukraine in 2014 and 2015.

Finally, YARS 2015, 8(11) contains a conference report by Maciej Gac. The volume closes with antitrust and regulatory bibliography for 2013 and 2014 that covers Poland, Estonia, Serbia and Slovakia.

The Editorial Board would like to take this opportunity to encourage the readers of YARS to participate in a conference on private enforcement of competition law co-organised by CARS which will be held in Supraśl (Poland) in July 2015 (the current volume contains an invitation to the conference).

The next regular volume of YARS will be published at the beginning of 2016. A call for papers will be announced shortly on the YARS website.

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