

## Editorial foreword

The editorial board is pleased to present the 12<sup>th</sup> volume of the Yearbook of Antitrust and Regulatory Studies (YARS 2015, 8(12)). It contains contributions presented during the International Conference entitled ‘Harmonisation of Private Antitrust Enforcement: A Central and Eastern European Perspective’. The conference was organised by the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok and the Centre for Antitrust and Regulatory Studies of the University of Warsaw (CARS). It was held on 2–4 July 2015 in Supraśl. It is the organisers’ intention for both the conference itself and the publication of its papers to contribute to the discussion on private antitrust enforcement. The conference provided a forum for a range of contributors from Central and Eastern Europe to present their approaches to the harmonisation of private antitrust enforcement. As a result, and continuing the tradition set by YARS in 2013, the research papers published in the current volume focus not only on the Polish competition law regime but also present the national competition laws of other CEE countries.

The current volume is dedicated to a whole spectrum of topics relating, in particular, to the Damages Directive (Directive 2014/104/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 November 2014 on certain rules governing actions for damages under national law for infringements of the competition law provisions of the Member States and of the European Union). Much emphasis is devoted to difficulties in transposing the Directive into national legislation of EU Member States, which represent various legal traditions and cultures. The organisers of the conference wanted to actively engage in the vital discussion on this topic. This refers both to substantive and procedural issues, as well as private antitrust enforcement from the perspective of consumer interests.

This last issue raises the question of collective consumer redress in antitrust cases (including, in particular, legal standing and financing, as well as the opt-in vs. opt-out model). This aspect of the debate is analysed in the guest article by S.O. Pais, which opens the current volume of YARS, as well as in the article written by K.J. Cseres.

Two papers focus on the scope of the Damages Directive. The first specifically concerns the scope of civil liability for antitrust damages (A. Jurkowska-Gomułka), the second focuses on those issues which received too little attention in the Directive (A. Piszcz). Procedural challenges are discussed with reference to the disclosure of documents (A. Galič) and access to documents (V. Butorac Malnar), including access to the files of competition authorities (A. Gulińska). One of the papers refers to the consensual approach to antitrust enforcement (R. Moisejevas). Included in the 'Articles' section of this YARS volume are also national reports from the four CEE countries represented at the conference – Ukraine (A. Gerasymenko and N. Mazaraki), Georgia (Z. Gvelesiani), Lithuania (R.A. Stanikunas and A. Burinskas) and Slovakia (O. Blažo).

Aside from the above research papers, the current volume of YARS contains also a number of conference reports. They cover: (i) 'Private Enforcement of Competition Law. Key Lessons from Recent International Developments' (London, 5–6 March 2015), (ii) 'Abuse Regulation in Competition Law: Past, Present and Future. 10th Annual ASCOLA' (Tokyo, 21–23 May 2015), (iii) 'International Conference on the Harmonisation of Private Antitrust Enforcement: A Central and Eastern European Perspective' (Supraśl, 2–4 July 2015), (iv) '2nd International PhD Students Seminar. Competition Law in Portugal and Poland' (Białystok, 1 July 2015), (v) The First Polish Competition Law Congress (Warsaw, 13–15 April 2015). The current volume of YARS concludes with the CARS Activity Report 2013–2014.

I end this brief editorial note with expressions of deep gratitude. I wish to first thank the members of the Conference Organising Committee, in particular Prof. Cezary Kosikowski and Prof. Tadeusz Skoczny, for all their support. I offer thanks to the authors and various anonymous reviewers who willingly gave their time and expertise to contribute to the current volume. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the financial support of the Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Białystok – Prof. Emil Pływaczewski – which allowed us to publish this volume.

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