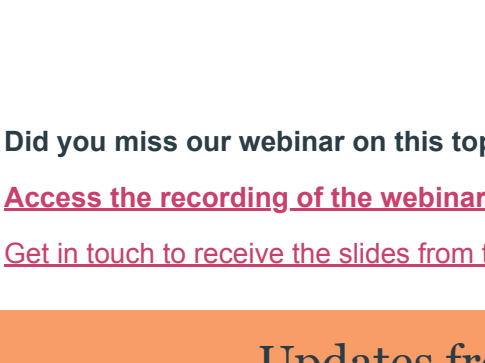


Competition & EU

Competitive Edge

Keeping you up to date on Competition & EU law developments in Europe and beyond

In Focus



Foreign Direct Investment in Europe – A closer look at developments and trends in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom

In this article [Janneke Kohlen](#), [Dr Stephan Waldheim](#) and [Anthony Rosen](#) take a look at recent developments and future trends in foreign direct investment across the Netherlands, Germany and the UK.

[Read the full story](#)

Did you miss our webinar on this topic on 18 April?

[Access the recording of the webinar >>](#)
[Get in touch to receive the slides from the webinar >>](#)

Updates from our jurisdictions

EU

Towercast casts its shadow on merger control

[Read the full story](#)

For more information, please contact [Hein Hobbelen](#), [Baptist Vleeshouwers](#) or [Ruben Verdoordt](#).

The Green Deal Industrial Plan – fitting the EU for the net-zero age

[Read the full story](#)

For more information, please contact [Pauline Kuipers](#), [Reshmi Rampersad](#) or [Sander Wagemakers](#).

Australia

The ACCC announces its 2023-24 enforcement priorities with a continued focus on sustainability and digital platforms

[Read the full story](#)

For more information, please contact [Thomas Jones](#), [Matthew Bovaird](#), [Patrick Cordwell](#) or [Dylan McGirr](#).

Belgium

Belgian Competition Authority clears sustainability initiative for living wages in the bananas sector

[Read the full story](#)

For more information, please contact [Hein Hobbelen](#), [Baptist Vleeshouwers](#) or [Ruben Verdoordt](#).

Denmark

Deutz is back on track after High Court's judgment in saga on sale of spare parts for trains

[Read the full story](#)

For more information, please contact [Morten Nissen](#), [Alexander Brächner](#) or [Nanna Krabbe](#).

Hungary

Hungarian Competition Authority proposes a new price monitoring tool

[Read the full story](#)

For more information, please contact [Gábor Kutaj](#) or [Dániel Aranyi](#).

Italy

Italian Competition Authority introduces whistleblowing platform to anonymously report anticompetitive behaviour

[Read the full story](#)

For more information, please contact [Federico Marini Balestra](#), [Lucia Antonazzi](#) or [Chiara Horgan](#).

Netherlands

A sick man walking; ACM'S market definition for ambulant infusion pumps quashed by the court and its merger decision annulled

[Read the full story](#)

For more information, please contact [Pauline Kuipers](#) or [Quirijn Mohr](#).

Spain

Changes are coming for the Spanish competition rules

[Read the full story](#)

For more information, please contact [Candela Sotes](#).

Events, webinars, conferences



18th Annual Conference of the GCLC

The future of energy markets: which role for competition policy in the current geopolitical context

20-21 April 2023
Brussels | Residence Palace

The programme for this year's conference organised by the [Global Competition Law Centre](#) will cover:

Day 1: Thursday, 20 April

Keynote Speech by Executive Vice-President **Margrethe Vestager**

- Panel 1 – The new EU energy dilemma
- Panel 2 – Affordability of energy prices for households and enterprises
- Panel 3 – Accelerating the efficient roll-out of EU energy infrastructure
- Panel 4 – Solidarity among Member States

Day 2: Friday, 21 April

- Panel 5 - Legal toolbox currently available to face the EU energy dilemma (with participation of Bird & Bird partner [Peter Willis](#))
- Panel 6 – EU Competition tools: a fitness check of their appropriateness to solve the EU energy dilemma (chaired by Bird & Bird partner [José Rivas](#))
- Panel 7: Concluding enforcers' panel

[See the full programme >>](#)
[Register for this conference >>](#)



Webinar recording

FDI review – is increasing deglobalisation justified by protecting national security?

In this webinar that took place on 18 April our team of competition and corporate law experts [Janneke Kohlen](#), [Dr Stephan Waldheim](#), [Anthony Rosen](#) and [Nick O'Donnell](#) discussed the **EU Foreign Direct Investment Regulation**, namely its implementation and status across the EU, with a focus on Germany and the Netherlands, and examined whether there is a trend towards increased protectionism within the EU. They also took a look at the **UK's developing National Security and Investment Act**, which has now been in play for just over a year, to consider whether any trends are emerging.

The experts discussed certain key aspects that companies should consider when investing in companies located in other countries, which may fall in the scope of the critical infrastructure or sensitive technology sectors. After a short overview of the EU legislation, they touched upon the UK, German and Dutch regimes and provided further insights on the key corporate/transactional considerations.

- EU FDI screening
 - Vital sectors
 - Sensitive technologies
- The UK regime
- The German regime
- The Dutch regime
- Corporate transaction timetable and conditions precedent.

[Access the recording of the webinar >>](#)



Event recordings and slides

Competition law and sector regulation in the telecom and pharmaceutical sectors

This hybrid seminar organised in collaboration with the [Centre for a Digital Society of the European University Institute \(EUI\)](#) took place in Bird & Bird's Brussels office on 22 March.

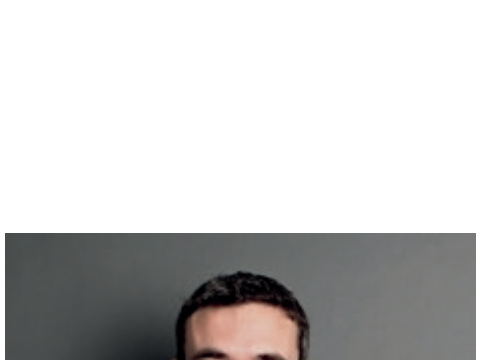
Two panels discussed the topics of:

- Net neutrality and fair sharing in the telecom sector
- Excessive pricing in the pharmaceutical sector

The keynote speech by **Paul Csiszár**, **Director of DG Competition, European Commission** at the end of the seminar was followed by a networking reception.

[Event programme, video recordings and PowerPoint presentations available here >>](#)

Bird & Bird news and publications



Senior hire bolsters our Competition & EU team in Rome

Of Counsel **Nicola Carao** recently joined our Competition & EU practice, working from our offices in Rome and Brussels.

In addition to being a reputed expert in antitrust and European law, Nicola brings with him over 35 years of experience in the areas of energy and utilities law and regulation as well as information technology (e-commerce, internet law, data protection, PCS). He also has experience advising clients on M&A and product liability matters and international contract law.

[Read more \(in Italian\) here >>](#)



Adaptability is key to success in Hungary: a Buzz interview with Daniel Aranyi

Although the war in Ukraine is still impacting the Hungarian market, there are also opportunities in the green economy and energy, as well as the Hungarian start-up scene, according to [Daniel Aranyi](#), Head of Energy & Utilities and Competition & EU in Bird & Bird Hungary.

[Read the interview here >>](#)

Originally published in CEE Legal Matters



Contribution of the Jurisprudence of the Grand Chamber of the CJEU to European integration

Brussels-based partner [José Rivas](#) authored a chapter on the *jurisprudence of the Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice on Competition law* in a collective book (in Spanish) published by University Carlos III of Madrid.

The presentation of this book will take place at the Spanish Senate on 4 May 2023 with the presence of the President of the Senate and the President of the Madrid Bar.

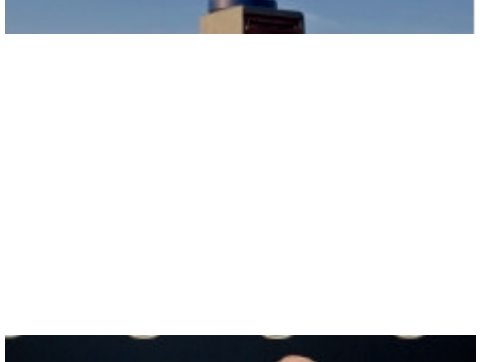


FDI - Foreign Direct Investment Overview

Global scrutiny of M&A deals and investments is on the increase with evolving foreign direct investment (FDI) regimes and greater scrutiny of deals to protect national security interests. Alongside merger control requirements and clearances, it is now essential to consider FDI clearance requirements.

This short document outlines how Bird & Bird can help and provides a link to a **detailed breakdown of FDI requirements by country**.

[View the document here >>](#)



Client Choice Award

Congratulations to our Brussels-based Competition law partner [José Rivas](#), for receiving the 2022 Lexology Client Choice Award for Competition law.

Only corporate counsel can nominate partners and law firms for this award. It recognises "excellent client care" and the quality of service provided to clients.

[More information here >>](#)



Competitive Edge Editorial Committee meets in Brussels

Who is behind this newsletter, keeping you up to date on Competition & EU law developments each month? It all comes together thanks to the work of our Editorial Committee, made up of Competition & EU associates from various Bird & Bird offices who work across borders not only on this newsletter, but of course also on multi-jurisdictional cases for our clients. The international committee came together for our annual in-person meeting in Brussels to discuss hot topics in competition law and other ideas to include in future editions of the newsletter. Watch this space!

[View previous editions of the Competitive Edge newsletter here >>](#)

Our Competition & EU practice has been ranked by the **Legal 500 EMEA 2023** in Belgium (Brussels), Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and the Netherlands.

Bird & Bird

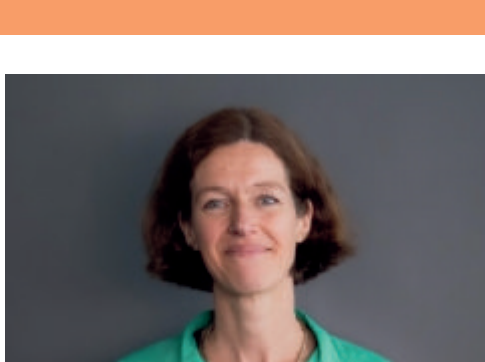
Legal 500 EMEA 2023

Competition: EU and Global

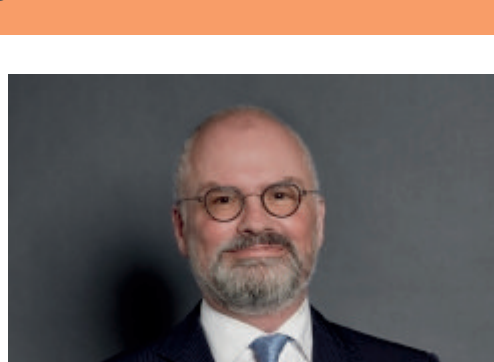


A big thank you to our clients for your support and for placing your trust in our team! Our Competition lawyers recognised by the Legal 500 include (from top left): [Baptist Vleeshouwers](#), [José Rivas](#), [Hein Hobbelen](#), [Anne Federle](#), [Federico Marini Balestra](#), [Lucia Antonazzi](#), [László Zlatarov](#), [Morten Nissen](#), [Mikkei Taanum](#), [Pauline Kuipers](#), [Janneke Kohlen](#), [Stephan Waldheim](#), [Jörg Witting](#), [Katja Duncker](#), [Daniel Aranyi](#), [Gabor Kutaj](#), [Thomas Oster](#), [Tialda Beetsma](#), [Simone Cadeddu](#) and [Jori Taipale](#).

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BIRD & BIRD

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[Forward to a colleague](#)