Sustainability and Competition Policy: Bridging two Worlds to Enable a Fairer Economy

24 October 2019

European Committee of the Regions / European Economic and Social Committee
Jacques Delors Building – JDE 62, Rue Belliard 99/101, Brussels

08:30 – 09:00
Registration

09:00 – 09:10
Welcome
- Maurizio Reale, President of the NAT Section

09:10 – 09:25
Presentation of the Conference
- Dario Soto Abril, CEO at Fairtrade International
- Alec Burnside, Dechert LLP (counsel to the Fair Trade Advocacy Office, FTAO)

09:25 – 09:50
Keynote Speech
Margrethe Vestager, EU Commissioner for Competition

09:50 – 11:05
Consumer Welfare under Pressure: Time for a Restatement?
Chair: Michael Weiner, Dechert LLP (counsel to the FTAO)

Speakers:
- Jonathan Baker, American University
- Cristina Caffarra, Charles River Associates
- Simon Holmes, UK Competition Appeals Tribunal
- Assimakis Komninos, GCLC/White & Case LLP

11:05 – 11:20
Coffee break
11:20 – 12:35  **Antitrust Challenges to Lawfully Pursuing Sustainability Goals: the example of the cocoa supply chain and beyond**  
*Chair:* Alec Burnside, Dechert LLP (counsel to the FTAO)

*Speakers:*
- Logan Breed (Hogan Lovells LLP), for the World Cocoa Foundation
- Dirk Middelschulte, Unilever
- Martin Oesch, Barry Callebaut
- Christoph Leibenath, Nestlé

12:35 – 14:05  **Lunch**

14:05 – 15:15  **Sustainability Goals: How to Factor them into Competition Assessments?**  
*Chair:* Simon Holmes, UK Competition Appeals Tribunal

*Speakers:*
- Véronique Thirion, Belgian Competition Authority
- Maria Jaspers, DG COMP
- Felix Engelsing, Competition Authority of Germany (BkartA)
- Martijn Snoep, Competition Authority of The Netherlands (ACM)

15:15 – 15:30  **Coffee break**

15:30 – 16:40  **Allowing for an Antitrust Exemption for Sustainability: a (False) Good Idea?**  
*Chair:* Ioannis Lianos, Hellenic Competition Commission/UCLondon

*Speakers:*
- Kevin Coates, Covington & Burling LLP
- Anna Gerbrandy, University of Utrecht
- Maarten Pieter Schinkel, University of Amsterdam
- Julian Nowag, Lund University and Oxford Centre for Competition Policy

16:40 – 17:50  **The Way Forward: How Can Competition Policy Enable Rather Than Obstruct Sustainability?**  
*Chair:* Damien Gerard, GCLC/University of Louvain

*Speakers:*
- Suzanne Kingston, University College Dublin
- Ioannis Lianos, Hellenic Competition Commission/UCLondon
- Damien Neven, Graduate Institute Geneva
- Geert Van Calster, University of Leuven

**Closing remarks**

17:50 – 18:00  Thomas Wobben, European Committee of the Regions

18:00 – 18:05  Sergi Corbalán, Executive Director of the Fair Trade Advocacy Office
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