



the global voice of
the legal profession[®]



Follow us
@IBAEvents
#IBAComp



INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2026

A conference presented by the IBA Antitrust Section

20th Annual IBA Competition Mid-Year Conference

28–29 May 2026,
Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Working programme

All speaker materials and biographies can be found at www.ibanet.org/conference-details/conf2768

Conference Co-Chairs

Kyriakos Fountoukakos *HSF Kramer, Brussels; Co-Chair,*

IBA Antitrust Section

Julian Peña *Allende & Brea, Buenos Aires; Co-Chair,*

IBA Antitrust Section

Rein Wesseling *Stibbe, Amsterdam; Vice Chair,*

IBA Antitrust Section

Host Committee

A&O Shearman

Bird & Bird

Clifford Chance

De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek

Freshfields

Houthoff

Loyens & Loeff

NautaDutilh

Stibbe

Van Doorne

Thursday 28 May

All working sessions will take place in the Council Chamber (First floor)
All coffee/tea breaks will take place in the St Cecilia Chamber (First floor)
Lunch will take place in the Admiralty room (Ground floor)

0800 – 1800

Registration

Council Chamber foyer

0850 – 0900

Introduction by the Conference Co-Chairs

Kyriakos Fountoukakos *Herbert Smith Freehills, Brussels; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*

Rein Wesseling *Stibbe, Amsterdam; Vice Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*

0900 – 0930

Keynote speech

Anna Marcoulli *General Court of the European Union, Luxembourg*

0930 – 1045 Session one**Enforcers' roundtable: senior enforcers from competition authorities will discuss topical issues and enforcement priorities**

Competition law enforcers face an increasing number of challenges due to geopolitical tensions, digital developments, industrial policies, defence concerns and public policy considerations. In this session, competition enforcers from around the world will discuss recent and upcoming enforcement developments in the EU and globally. They will reveal how they manage to keep the plates spinning in all areas of competition law, including merger control, antitrust and technology regulation, in light of these challenges.

Moderators

Kyriakos Fountoukakos *Herbert Smith Freehills, Brussels; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*

Julian Peña *Allende & Brea, Buenos Aires; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*

Panellists

Inge Bernaerts *European Commission, Brussels*

Remko Bos *ACM, The Hague*

Willard Mwemba *COMESA Competition and Consumer Commission, Lilongwe*

1045 – 1115

Coffee/tea break**MOBILE TELEPHONES**

Delegates are requested to ensure that mobile telephones and any other portable devices are switched to silent in working sessions.

Associate conference sponsor



Conference refreshment break sponsor



1115 – 1245 Session two

Merger control, FSR and FDI – issues arising in international deals

Gone are the days that merger control was the only hurdle to cross for international deals. Now, such deals face a multifaceted filing and scrutiny process. Not only is jumping through FDI and FSR hoops part of the game, but competition authorities also seem more open to sustainability, media pluralism, security and defence considerations in their merger control assessments. However, national governments need to be careful not to overstep the mark when taking measures to protect legitimate interests. This panel will focus on how to guide international deals through this regulatory maze unscathed.

Moderators

Randal Hughes *Fasken, Toronto*

Andrew Ward *Gomez-Acebo & Pombo, Madrid; Working Group Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Panellists

Charles Coorey *Gilbert + Tobin, Barangaroo; Senior Publications Officer, IBA Product Law and Advertising Committee*

Janet Hui *JunHe, Beijing; IBA LPD Council Member*

Beatriz Sanz Fernandez-Vega *Telefónica, Madrid*

Margaret Segall *Cravath, Swaine & Moore, New York; Publications Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Stephanie The *De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek, Amsterdam*

Keynote speech

1245 – 1315 **Ioannis Lianos** *University College London, London*

Lunch

1315 – 1430

1430 – 1600 Session three

Abuse of dominance update: developments from the EU and around the world

The panel will explore the continuing intensity of antitrust enforcement in both digital and traditional industries outside the scope of the Digital Markets Act, with a particular focus on recent and emerging cases under Article 102 TFEU. Speakers will examine key themes shaping current practice, including the European Commission's evolving approach to exclusionary and exploitative conduct, the anticipated impact of the Commission's forthcoming guidelines on exclusionary abuses and the implications of major judicial developments, such as the General Court's Android judgment for enforcement priorities and standards of proof. Against this backdrop, the discussion will assess how authorities are adapting established abuse frameworks to complex digital ecosystems, differentiated business models and evolving theories of harm, and what these trends mean for companies operating across multiple jurisdictions.

Moderators

Zoltán Marosi *DLA Piper, Budapest; Working Group Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Nisha Uberoi *JSA, Mumbai; Newsletter Editor, IBA Antitrust Section*

Panellists

Pascale Déchamps *Accuracy, Paris*

Anne-Claire Hoyng *Prosus, Amsterdam*

Massimiliano Kadar *European Commission, Brussels*

Jotte Mulder *Clifford Chance, Amsterdam*

Daniel Swanson *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Los Angeles; Member, IBA Antitrust Section Advisory Board*

1600 – 1630 **Coffee/tea break**

MOBILE TELEPHONES

Delegates are requested to ensure that mobile telephones and any other portable devices are switched to silent in working sessions.

Thursday continued

1630 – 1800 Session four

Antitrust enforcement procedures: powers of enforcement, inspections, timelines and interim measures

The current review of Regulation 1/2003 reads like a Christmas wish list. The panel will weigh up this wish list against their own practical experiences to determine whether expanded enforcement powers, an enhanced use of interim measures, the possibility of remote dawn raids, a broader extraterritorial reach of requests for information and more sophisticated screening tools will indeed lead to swifter and more efficient procedures.

Moderators

Catriona Hatton *Baker Botts, Brussels; Senior Vice Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*

Alastair Mordaunt *Freshfields, London; Secretary, IBA Antitrust Section*

Panellist

Jeroen Braaksma *ACM, The Hague*

Roos Elemans *Stibbe, Amsterdam*

Bernd Meyring *Linklaters, Brussels*

Alvaro Ramos *Qualcomm, Madrid*

1830 – 2000 **Host Committee reception**

Admiralty, Prinsenhof

Ground floor, Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam

Oudezijds Voorburgwal 197

Amsterdam 1012 EX

All registered delegates are invited to attend.

Friday 29 May

All working sessions will take place in the Council Chamber (First floor)
All coffee/tea breaks will take place in the St Cecilia Chamber (First floor)

0830 – 1300 **Registration**
Council Chamber foyer

0900 – 0930 **Keynote speech**
Martijn Snoep *Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets, The Hague*

0930 – 1100 Session five

Antitrust law before the civil courts and damages actions

Competition damages actions are never dull, often accompanied with major follow-on and standalone damages cases, as well as landmark rulings by the EU's courts. This panel will therefore cover recent judgments and upcoming trials in civil antitrust damages, as well as the damages actions slowly emerging from the enforcement actions taken under the Digital Markets Act (DMA).

Moderators

Anastasia Pastan *Milbank, Washington DC*

Rein Wesseling *Stibbe, Amsterdam; Vice Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*

Panellists

Marit Bosselaar *Loyens & Loeff, Amsterdam*

Kim Dietzel *HSF Kramer, London*

Ian Forrester *King's Counsel, Brussels*

Amandine Gueret *Hausfeld, Paris*

1100 – 1130 **Coffee/tea break**

MOBILE TELEPHONES

Delegates are requested to ensure that mobile telephones and any other portable devices are switched to silent in working sessions.

Digital economy enforcement with a focus on data and AI

Digital market regulations in Europe – particularly the Digital Markets Act and the Digital Services Act – are designed to limit the dominance of major gatekeepers, strengthen competition and enhance user protection. However, their implementation continues to face notable challenges. Meanwhile, digital market regulation in the US is currently characterised by a shift away from comprehensive, proactive legislation (like the EU’s Digital Markets Act) toward a reliance on traditional, ex-post antitrust enforcement often influenced by political, economic and trade-related debates. Whereas in Africa, the COMESA Competition and Consumer Commission adopted new digital markets regulations in December 2025 aimed at overseeing gatekeepers operating within the COMESA region.

The panel will explore the current challenges facing digital market regulations, discuss ways to enhance regulatory frameworks and assess the effectiveness of these measures from both European, American and African perspectives. It will also consider how competition authorities can administer enforcement penalties, promote fair and balanced regulation without slowing innovation, address data privacy concerns and manage the interests of both gatekeepers and consumers.

Moderators

Sydney Chisenga *Corpus Legal Practitioners, Lusaka; African Regional Forum Liaison Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Kristina Nordlander *McDermott Will & Schulte, London; Conference Quality Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Panellists

Lucia Bonova *European Commission, Brussels*

Yann Guthmann *Autorité de la concurrence, Paris*

Babatunde Irukera *Former Executive Vice Chairman, FCCPC, Abuja*

Bradley Justus *Axinn, Washington DC*

Winfred Knibbeler *Freshfields, Amsterdam*

1300 – 1315

Closing remarks

Julian Peña *Allende & Brea, Buenos Aires; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*

Rein Wesseling *Stibbe, Amsterdam; Vice Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*

MOBILE TELEPHONES

Delegates are requested to ensure that mobile telephones and any other portable devices are switched to silent in working sessions.

Transform your legal practice with **secure AI**

Boost your productivity with
the most comprehensive legal AI
on the market—secure, ethical, and
powered by exclusive LexisNexis content.

Follow us
on LinkedIn

