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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2026

A conference presented by the IBA Antitrust Section

30th Annual Competition Conference

4–5 September 2026
The St Regis Florence, Florence, Italy

Working programme and list of participants

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All speaker materials and biographies can be found at **www.ibanet.org/conference-details/conf2620**

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Kyriakos Fountoukakos *HSF Kramer, Brussels; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*
Julian Peña *Allende & Brea, Buenos Aires; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*

Organising committee
Benedict Bleicher *Interim Antitrust Counsel, Ford Motor Company, London; Corporate Counsel Forum Liaison Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*
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Samir Gandhi *Axiom5, New Delhi, Delhi; Senior Vice Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*
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Tsuyoshi Ikeda *Ikeda & Someya, Tokyo; Membership Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*
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Kristina Nordlander *McDermott Will & Schulte, London; Conference Quality Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*
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Julian Peña *Allende & Brea, Buenos Aires; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*
Mariana Tavares de Araujo *Levy & Salomão, Rio de Janeiro ; Publications Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*
Nisha Uberoi *JSA, Mumbai, Maharashtra; Newsletter Editor, IBA Antitrust Section*
Andrew Ward *Gomez-Acebo & Pombo, Madrid; Working Group Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*
Rein Wesseling *Stibbe, Amsterdam; Vice Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*
Chen Yang *JunHe, Beijing; Social Media and Website Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Friday 4 September

Registration will be held in the Montebello foyer
Coffee/tea breaks will take place in the Salone delle feste foyer
Working sessions will be held in the Salone delle feste ballroom
Lunch will be held in the Winter Garden restaurant

0800 – 1800 **Registration**

0800 – 0910 **Welcome tea/coffee**

0910 – 0930 **Welcome remarks**
Kyriakos Fountoukakos *HSF Kramer, Brussels; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*
Julian Peña *Allende & Brea, Buenos Aires; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*
Claudio Visco *Lipani Legal & Tax, Milan; IBA President*

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Friday continued

0930 – 1000 **Pre-recorded keynote address**
Teresa Ribera *Executive Vice President, European Commission, Brussels*

1000 – 1115 **Enforcers' roundtable**

Heads of leading agencies will discuss recent developments, what they are prioritising today and what they expect the focus of competition law will be going forward. The panel will touch on topical issues such as agency independence, governmental policies and how they affect enforcement in the context of innovation, growth, scale and industrial policy. The panel will also discuss international cooperation among the world's antitrust agencies and what we can expect to see in this respect in the coming years.

Moderators
Kyriakos Fountoukakos *HSF Kramer, Brussels; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*
Julian Peña *Allende & Brea, Buenos Aires; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*

Speakers
Eiji Chatani *Chair, Japan Fair Trade Commission, Tokyo*
Andrea Marván Saltiel *Chair Commissioner, Mexico's National Antitrust Commission (CNA), Mexico City*
Andreas Mundt *President, Bundeskartellamt, Bonn*
Saverio Valentino *President, Italian Competition Authority, Rome*
Anthony Whelan *Directorate-General for Competition, DG Competition, Brussels*

1115 – 1145 **Coffee/tea break**

1145 – 1300 **Preserving and restoring competition in real time: interim measures and remedies in antitrust investigations**

Interim measures have reemerged as a critical enforcement tool as agencies grapple with rapid developments in fast moving markets – in particular in digital and AI markets. Recent actions, including the European Commission imposing on Meta interim measures to address the exclusion of third-party AI assistants from WhatsApp, signal a willingness to intervene early to prevent irreparable competitive harm. At the other end of a case, agencies have had difficulties but also successes in crafting appropriate remedies. The panel will discuss how agencies around the world deploy these powers both at the beginning and end of a case with a focus on achieving results, and how parties under investigation and complainants can strategically navigate these issues.

Moderators
Sarretta McDonough *Intel Corporation, Santa Clara, California; North American Regional Representative, IBA Antitrust Section*
Andrew Ward *Gomez-Acebo & Pombo, Madrid; Working Group Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Speakers
Jose Alexandre Buaiz Neto *Pinheiro Neto Advogados, Brasilia*
Timothy Lamb *VP, EMEA Competition & Regulatory, Meta, Paris*
Nicholas Levy *Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, London*
Cristina Sjödin *Deputy Head of Unit, DG Competition, Brussels*

1300 – 1500 **Lunch**
Lunch Keynote speaker
Daniel Sokol *Professor of Law and Business, USC Gould School of Law University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California*

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Friday continued

1500 – 1630

Artificial intelligence (AI) and new frontiers in enforcement

To say that AI is a 'hot topic' in competition law in 2026 would be an understatement. Agencies are grappling with enforcement relating to AI markets from consolidation and vertical integration to exclusionary abuse conduct and entrenchment of dominance, to algorithmic collusion. This panel will pick on several cutting-edge topics including a focus on the role of AI agents, that is, autonomous and semi-autonomous systems that are increasingly shaping commercial behaviour.

Moderators
Leonor Cordovil *Grinberg Cordovil Advogados, São Paulo; Vice Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*
Nisha Uberoi *JSA, Mumbai, Maharashtra; Newsletter Editor, IBA Antitrust Section*

Speakers
Oliver Bethell *Head of Competition, Regulatory Engagement & Advisory, Google, London*
Jorge Padilla *Chair, Compass Lexecon, Madrid*
Fiona Schaeffer *Milbank, New York*
Ori Schwartz *Head of the OECD Competition Division, OECD, Paris*

1630 – 1700 **Coffee/tea break**

1700 – 1815

Blurred lines: redefining dominance and dependency in a hyper-concentrated world

In an era defined by hyper-concentration and intricate vertical integration, the lines between "aggressive, but legitimate competition" and "anticompetitive unilateral conduct" have never been more blurred. Worldwide, the traditional toolkit of antitrust enforcement against dominant companies - unilateral conduct, monopolisation, and economic dependency - is undergoing a radical transformation.

With the EU poised to release its landmark guidelines and global jurisdictions pivoting toward more assertive stances, the legal landscape is shifting beneath our feet. This panel moves beyond the theory to tackle the high-stakes realities of modern enforcement and will discuss, amongst others, the following topics:

- Redefining the boundaries: Is "market definition" still a viable anchor in a world of ecosystem competition, or is it becoming an analytical relic? (e.g. Moving from product-based silos to multi-sided platform ecosystems.)
- The burden of proof: How are new evidentiary presumptions flipping the script on how we establish dominance? (e.g. The shift toward reparable harm and structural presumptions in digital markets)
- Economic dependency: As platforms become "essential partners" for smaller players, where does legitimate bargaining end and abuse begin? (e.g. Android Auto- to what extent must dominant platforms provide third-party access to their proprietary ecosystems?). Should there be more room for antitrust enforcement against non-dominant players on whom other market players are economically dependent?

Moderators
Samir Gandhi *Axiom5, New Delhi, Delhi; Senior Vice Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*
Petra Linsmeier *Gleiss Lutz, Brussels; Diversity and Inclusion Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Speakers
Tsuyoshi Ikeda *Ikeda & Someya, Tokyo; Membership Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*
Frédéric Jenny *Visiting Fellow, Department of Law, European University Institute, Florence*
Massimiliano Kadar *Head of Unit, DG Competition, Brussels*
Sonja Pfaffenroth *Sullivan & Cromwell, Washington, DC*

1815 – 1845 **Pre-reception keynote address**
Andrea Marván Saltiel *Chair Commissioner, Mexico's National Antitrust Commission (CNA), Mexico City*

1845 – 2015 **Conference reception**
Cosimo Rooftop Terrace Bar and Restaurant
The Excelsior, a Luxury Collection Hotel
Piazza Ognissanti 1/3, 50123
Florence, Italy

All registered delegates and speakers who are registered for the full conference are welcome to attend.

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Saturday 5 September

Registration will be held in the Montebello foyer
Coffee/tea breaks will take place in the Salone delle feste foyer
Working sessions will be held in the Salone delle feste ballroom

0930 – 1300 **Registration**

0930 – 1000 **Welcome tea/coffee**

1000 – 1030 **Keynote address**
Andrew N Ferguson *Chair, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC*

1030 – 1115 **The Michael Reynolds interview**

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

Interviewee
Cani Fernandéz *Former President, Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission, Madrid*

1115 – 1145 **Coffee/tea break**

1145 – 1300 **The new world of merger control: Resilience, scale, global markets, investment, innovation, and (geo)political issues. How to navigate the new environment of merger control around the world**

Competition authorities worldwide are reassessing how merger control should operate in a period marked by geopolitical uncertainty, supply chain fragility and rapid technological change. Beyond traditional theories of harm, agencies increasingly consider how transactions affect resilience, scale and innovation pathways, alongside the classic assessment of price and quality effects. Political sensitivities, security concerns and other non-competition factors (and instruments such as FDI laws) may impact the analysis. New enforcement practices and guidelines (in particular, the forthcoming EU new guidelines) will reshape how merger control analysis takes place in this new era.

This panel will explore how these factors are taken into account in merger reviews both from a regulator's perspective, but also through practical tips by practitioners and companies that are grappling with these issues in deal making.

Moderators
Kristina Nordlander *McDermott Will & Schulte, London; Conference Quality Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*
Mariana Tavares de Araujo *Levy & Salomão, Rio de Janeiro ; Publications Officer, IBA Antitrust Section*

Speakers
Peter Bernstein *Head of Competition and Antitrust, Ericsson, Greenwich, Connecticut*
Gavin Bushell *Baker McKenzie, Brussels*
Daniele Calisti *Head of Unit, DG Competition, Brussels*
Ethel Fonseca *Partner, RBB Economics, London*
Michael Keeley *Axinn, Washington, DC*

1300 – 1315 **Closing remarks**

Conference Co-Chairs
Kyriakos Fountoukakos *HSF Kramer Brussels; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*
Julian Peña *Allende & Brea, Buenos Aires; Co-Chair, IBA Antitrust Section*

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Through Storybook Project featuring The Greatest Artist and The Secret Agreement ACTECON continues donating competition law-themed storybooks to school libraries in Türkiye and abroad. inspire the next generation to embrace values of fair-play and healthy rivalry. ness,


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