Editor’s note

Dear readers,

Our second edition of 2022 is focused on institutional developments, and presents a unique opportunity to engage with the perspectives of antitrust regulators, past and present.

In the first article, Nicholas Banasevic, the former European Commission DG Competition Head of Unit, reflects on some of the main European abuse of dominance cases in the technology sector during this century, in order to analyse where the law in the European Union stands on abuse of dominance. He examines some unanswered questions which remain for the future, both as regards case enforcement as well as the interplay between that and regulation.

The second article, by James Hodge and Nonkululeko Moeketsi of the South African Competition Commission, titled Enforcement Tools and Approach in a New Era observes that the rise of digital markets, as well as increased economic volatility and the recent global healthcare emergencies that have challenged the enforcement tools and approach of competition authorities globally, which has in turn required authorities to be creative with the tools they have, and to look at new tools for enforcement. They examine the experience of the South African authority to date in dealing with these challenges.

Next, we feature an interview with Gina Cass-Gottlieb, Chair of the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission, in which our Editorial Board Co-Chairs, Linda Evans and Sarretta McDonough, discuss the challenges presented to competition law authorities seeking convictions in contested matters with individuals, and the effectiveness of the corporate leniency policy applied in Australia. She also reflects on coordination between competition authorities in international merger matters, and the Australian authority’s focus on digital platforms.

Our fourth contribution, titled Institutional Architecture of UK Competition Law by Richard Whish, KC (Hon), Emeritus Professor of Law, King’s College London, examines the roles of the United Kingdom’s Competition and Markets Authority
and the Competition Appeal Tribunal, noting that this apparently simple system is the product of a somewhat complicated past. He predicts that the UK’s regime is likely to undergo interesting changes in the near future.

Then, we feature an interview conducted by Michael Reynolds, a former President of the International Bar Association and past Chair of the IBA Antitrust Committee, with Professor Jacques Steenbergen, the former President of the Belgian Competition Authority, about the challenges he faced at the agency, how it has dealt with the pandemic, as well as its new powers to deal with the abuse of economic dependency.

The last two contributions present perspectives from authorities we may hear from a little less frequently, but which nonetheless present some fascinating insights. First, Šarūnas Keserauskas, the Chair of Lithuanian authority and Irma Urmonaitė, Deputy of competition policy and international affairs, examine the authority’s changing role and powers as Lithuania has transitioned away from a centrally planned – and totally regulated – economy under Soviet occupation, as well as some of its future challenges. Next, in their contribution titled Achievements, Advances, Setbacks and Challenges of the Peruvian Competition Policy, Jesús Espinoza Lozada and Sofía Rivera Alvarado examine some notable successes of the Peruvian Competition Authority, as well as some challenges and setbacks that could undermine Peruvian competition policy.

We hope you enjoy these diverse contributions and extend our sincere thanks to all who contributed to this second edition of 2022, as well as the members of our Editorial Board who assisted with assembling and editing these contributions.

We wish you all a very happy 2023, and hope that the coming year will bless us with many more exciting developments.

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