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Legal certainty and predictability are key objectives of the EUMR architecture. The CJEU affirmed their essential nature unequivocally in its Illumina judgment. The possibility of art.22 referrals based on call-in powers, however, seems to sit in tension with these principles, as the features of national call-in regimes may introduce elements of uncertainty in the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction to review below-threshold transactions.

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The CJEU confirms that in order to determine whether an agreement be regarded as harmful to competition by object, it is necessary to examine the content of the rule, its economic and legal context and the objectives it is intended to achieve. The context is therefore a key consideration. Importantly the ruling clarifies that exceptional contextual economic and legal circumstances can prevent a by-object restriction of competition classification. In this case the context was Covid-19 pandemic together with specific characteristics of sport. An agreement restricting competition for a limited time and that does not have the primary object of forever restricting or halting competition can be saved from the prohibition in Article 101(1), if it can convincingly be demonstrated that it pursues a legitimate objective in the public interest and is necessary and proportionate to achieving that objective. The CJEU ruled that ensuring the regularity of sporting competitions is a legitimate objective in the public interest, which includes rules aimed at maintaining of a certain degree of stability in player rosters.

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This article examines the Italian Competition Authority's inquiry (IC57, 2025) into the school textbook publishing sector—a market long overlooked by antitrust scrutiny despite its economic weight and social significance. Moving beyond pricing, the Inquiry's real contribution lies in exposing how end-user licence agreements, platform lock-in, and the absence of interoperability jointly sustain a "sub-equilibrium" that entrenches print-digital bundling, chills secondary markets, and forecloses free-lending schemes, situating the Authority's findings within broader EU copyright and competition law doctrine. The article further assesses a set of voluntary commitments publishers offered in response—licence reactivation, printing allowances, QR-code interoperability—as a case study in the promise, and limits, of "Competition Regulatory Tools" as a new enforcement paradigm bridging fact-finding and behavioural/structural market revisions.

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This article seeks to analyse recent developments in the interpretation of the selectivity criterion in State aid law and assess their potential impact on future investigations. In its May 2026 ruling in *RENV Carpatair*, the Court held that preferential treatment granted on the basis of a published *ex ante* set of objective criteria may amount to a selective advantage where it is clear from the circumstances that those conditions were tailor-made for only specific undertakings to meet. The case concerned measures used to incentivise airlines to operate from regional airports, a long-standing source of controversy in State aid law. Over the years, the Commission has attempted to curb instances of concealed State aid, yet airport charge discount schemes have generally been regarded as non-selective because they were potentially available to all carriers meeting objective criteria. The article argues that, while the interpretation is moving in the right direction, it leaves some uncertainty concerning the reference system used in the selectivity assessment. It seeks to determine how the interpretative approach can be fine-tuned to ensure broader applicability.