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Insurance Block Exemption Regulation: EU Commission challenges statistics and co-(re)insurance exemptions 261

A European Commission report threatens the continued existence of the Insurance Block Exemption Regulation ("IBER"). The regulation protects essential industry practices, namely the sharing of statistics and certain joint insurance arrangements (line slips, pools, consortia, joint binding authorities). The report invites the sector to explain why the regulation should not lapse, without renewal, when it comes to an end in 2017. The report appears to be based on partial data and misunderstands key features of the industry. So it will be important for stakeholders to respond robustly to the report's conclusions. The loss of this protection—especially on flawed grounds—creates potentially damaging legal uncertainty.

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Analyses the first two years of the Competition and Markets Authority's experience with initial enforcement orders in merger cases. Considers the practical effect of the changes to the UK competition authority's toolkit, including whether the attractiveness of the UK's voluntary and non-suspensory regime has been diminished as a result of the stricter approach to hold-separate measures.

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Extradition discrimination? Piscioti's legal battle continues as Regional Court of Berlin refers questions of fundamental EU law principles to the CJEU 277

In the legal battle of the alleged marine-hoses-cartel participant, Mr Romano Piscioti, the Regional Court of Berlin has referred specific questions to the CJEU for preliminary ruling. The referral order calls into question the current extradition practice of many EU Member States and provides the CJEU with the possibility to further clarify the fundamental EU principle of non-discrimination. In addition, it touches on delicate issues in EU-US extradition cases and will be of particular interest with regard to future extradition requests based on antitrust charges.

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In 2010 the New Zealand government began a process of cartel law reform with a view to introducing criminal offences for cartel conduct. In 2015 the government announced that the criminal provisions would be removed but that the reform would otherwise proceed. This article assesses the remaining cartel reform proposals.

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The article is concerned with the question of whether it would be more advantageous to change the currently applicable legal framework regarding resale price maintenance in the EU, especially taking into account the recent case law of the ECJ and implications from the US Antitrust Law.

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The unprecedented publication of competition authority decisions regarding cartels, as a result of a political decision, has connected China with western countries in the fight against the negative effects of cartels' actions. This transparency regarding cartel decisions has accompanied a significant increase in China's anti-monopoly enforcement during the last several years.

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