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EU Competition Law and The Public Interest to Strategic Autonomy 375

EU competition law as we know it after the MEA was adopted has been, in principle, inspired by the sole pursuit of economic efficiency demonstrable through quantitative evidence and mainly focused on the European internal market. In more recent times the competitiveness of European markets has begun to be threatened predominantly from outside so that the EU has paid increasing attention to the need for strategic autonomy of the union vis-à-vis third countries. This article highlights some issues in which the interpretation of EU competition law (with reference to agreements and mergers) has focused, up to now, only or mainly on the inbound interests of the EU and proposes evolutionary paths aimed at taking greater consideration of an outbound focus.

Staggered Versus Simultaneous Notifications for International Mergers 386

In practice, the Parties to an international merger that requires notification in several jurisdictions often start the required process staggered rather than simultaneous. I assume this is at least partly by choice. This may reduce the scope for international coordination by competition authorities. An obligation to have near-simultaneous notifications may improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of merger control.

Catch-22—A Substantive Law Perspective on the Difficulties of Successfully Challenging the European Commission's Assessment of Facts in State Aid Cases 393

This article focuses on the problems that applicants face in providing evidence sufficient to successfully challenge the European Commission's assessment of factual circumstances on the merits in State aid cases. While the difficulties in this area are acknowledged, the issue is typically framed as one concerning procedural rights and access to the Court. The author will propose viewing it instead as a consequence of a substantive law issue—the insufficient methodological rigour in the analysis of aid measures. The question of whether improvements are realistic, and what form they might take, will be examined within this context.

The Assessment of the First Year of Enforcement of the Egyptian Merger Regime 403

The new merger control regime in Egypt has been in force for one year. This Article is intended to assess the main trends of enforcement and assess the numbers related to the said enforcement to identify a number of lessons that would guide different stakeholders in the following years.

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