
ITHACA COMPETITION CONFERENCE 2023

Second edition



*"When you set out on your journey to Ithaca, pray the road is long, full of
adventure, full of knowledge."*

— Excerpt from the poem "Ithaca" by Cavafy (1911)

Save The Date

August 3-5, 2023 | Vathy Cultural Centre | Ithaca island

14:00-14:45 | Registration & Coffee

14:45-15:00 | Welcome Address

15:00-18:00 (including coffee break)

Panel 1 | Chief Economists Reflect - Challenges & Opportunities

Four of the six appointed Chief Economists at the European Commission's DG Competition reflect on their greatest analytical and procedural challenges during their tenure under merger policy and the enforcement of Article 102 TFEU, and the imminent policy and enforcement challenges on the horizon. Two sets of distinct discussions will be focused respectively on merger policy and abuse of dominance practice.

Chairperson: **Jorge Padilla**, Senior Managing Director, Compass Lexecon

Panel Members:

- **Pierre Regibeau**, sitting Chief Economist, DG Competition, European Commission
- **Prof. Tommaso Valletti**, Head of the Dept. Of Economics & Public Policy, Imperial College Business School/London
- **Prof. Kai-Uwe Kuhn**, University of East Anglia/Academic Advisor, Brattle Group/Brussels
- **Prof. Damien Neven**, Graduate Institute, Geneva/Senior Consultant, Compass Lexecon

Panel Members will be joined in the JECLAP written proceedings by ex Chief Economists **Prof. Lars-Hendrik Roeller** and **Prof. Massimo Motta**, with an invitation extended to the **new Chief Economist** (if they have been appointed at the time of the conference).

19:00-21:00

Evening cocktail on Lazaretto island

Sponsored by **Caselex BV**, part of the **Lexis Nexis group**.



10:30-13:30 (including coffee break)

Panel 2 | Digital Platforms Policy: Quo Vadis?

The introduction of the *Digital Markets Act* raises a number of critical issues as regards the likely efficiency of regulatory intervention in dynamic markets, the residual role of competition policy, the new institutional relationships that are foreseen to implement the new regime, and the role of various stakeholders in the new policy dynamic that is likely to develop.

Chairperson: **Peter Alexiadis**, Visiting Professor, King's College/London.

Panel Members:

- **Filomena Chirico**, DG Head of Unit, DG Connect/DMA Task Force - "Preparing the framework for intervention under the DMA: an institutional response"
- **Prof. Alexandre de Streel**, University of Namur/ Chair, Expert Group on the Online Platform Economy - "Pressure Points in DMA analysis and some reflections on future outcomes"
- **Dr. Liza Lovdahl Gormsen**, British Institute of International & Comparative Law, "The role of private litigation in enforcing the new rules affecting digital platforms"
- **Peter Alexiadis** - "Lessons and comparisons from the EU's telecoms experience"

Online participation from: **Professors Fiona Scott-Morton**, Yale School of Management/Senior Consultant, Charles River Associates; and **Caio Mario de Silva Pereira Neto**, Pereira Neto Law Firm/FGV Sao Paulo Law School, providing their respective overviews of key US and Brazilian developments in the field of digital platforms.

15:00-18:00 (including coffee break)

Panel 3 | European Energy Policy: New Dimensions

This Panel examines various aspects of energy policy, both at the level of regulation and competition law, which are challenged by the pursuit of environmental goals and current global energy crisis that has been triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Panel considers various traditional policy options and instruments that are being put under strain and the development of new ways of achieving society's overarching policy goals in the wake of challenging economic conditions.

Chairperson: **Ruben Maximiano**, Senior Competition Expert, OECD - "Pursuing sustainability goals under competition law: a global view"

Panel Members:

- **Prof. Leigh Hancher**, Tilburg University/Netherlands - "The principle of 'solidarity' and the pursuit of strategic autonomy for European energy markets: when dogma meets reality"
- **Prof. Martin Cave**, OBE, Chair of OFGEM - "Making regulatory policy trade-offs in a national fire-fighting mode"
- **Carole Maczkovics**, Partner, Covington & Burling/Brussels - "The role of State aids and subsidies in shaping EU energy policy"
- **Adrien De Hauteclouque** - Head of Cabinet to the President of the General Court - "A competition analysis of long term energy supply contracts"

19:00-21:00

Conference Cocktail at Hotel Mentor

Sponsored by **George Washington University**.

10:30-13:30 (including coffee break)

Panel 4 | The Direction of Traffic in Competition Policy Thinking

The Conference closes with this Panel focusing on emerging new enforcement policies in response to changes in the political and economic landscape in the EU and the US (anti-subsidy rules, actions vs dominant firms, merger review, digital markets practice) and to the necessary revisions that are taking place to update existing policy instruments to ensure that they are fit for purpose (e.g., the Horizontal Guidelines, Vertical Guidelines, the Market Definition Notice, Regulation 1/2003, the establishment of the DMA Task Force, new guidance on Article 102 enforcement policy). The format is based on three presentations summarising global, EU and US trends, followed by a Panel made up of National key Competition Authorities and academic debating the merits of these policies.

Chairperson: **Cristina Volpin**, Competition Expert, OECD - "Global trends and priorities: a snapshot"

Presenters:

- **Prof. William Kovacic**, George Washington University/Visiting Professor, King's College/London - "New directions in US enforcement strategy"
- **Prof. Pablo Ibanez Colomo** (online presentation), LSE/London, College of Europe/Bruges - "New directions in EU Competition Policy: A work in progress"

NCA Discussion Panel:

- **Cani Fernandez**, President, National Commission for Markets & Competition/Spain
- **Ioannis Lianos**, President, Hellenic Competition Commission/Greece
- **Henri Piffaut**, Vice-President, Competition Authority/France

- Close of conference -

Conference Sponsors:



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HOW TO ATTEND

Conference registration occurs through the **Chillin' Competition website**, using the facilities of **Eventbrite** at Ithaca Competition Summit.

The fees are set at a level only to cover organisational costs, namely, €250 for practitioners and €50 for currently enrolled students on competition law courses in any part of the world. Seating is limited strictly to 120 participants. Oxford University Press has kindly offered to publish the conference papers in its Journal of Economic European Competition Law & Practice (JECLAP) publication.

As accommodation is a premium in the summer months, you should book your accommodation as soon as possible. There are a number of smaller hotels, apartments and AirBnB options available.

Specific **student accommodation** options can be arranged by confirming your arrival and departure dates with dinapa2@yahoo.gr. This should be arranged by July 28.



HOW TO GET THERE

To reach the Ionian island of Ithaca, you will need to arrive by either ferry or sea taxi as there is no airport on the island itself. The closest airport is on the neighbouring island of **Kefalonia** (Argostoli airport), which receives daily domestic flights from Athens (Aegean Airlines), and the trip takes 45 minutes. There are also many direct scheduled flights in summer from European airports to Kefalonia (including London, Amsterdam, Madrid, Rome and various airports in Germany), as well as charter flights. After arriving by plane to Kefalonia and then a taxi to the port of Sami, visitors can take the scheduled ferry service or arrange for a water taxi from Sami to Ithaca, or take the ferry to Ithaca from the port of Kyllini.

The other airports worth considering are **Preveza** and **Araxos**, both on the mainland, and the nearby island of **Zakynthos**. These smaller regional airports have a number of charter flights during the summer season. From Preveza, one can drive easily over the bridge to the island of **Lefkada** and ferry to Ithaca, while from Araxos in the Peloponnese one can drive to the ports of **Patra** or **Kyllini**, which has a daily ferry services to Ithaca. From Zakynthos, which hosts many international flights, one can take the ferry to Ithaca via Kefalonia.

Alternatively, one can drive from Athens airport to the west coast of the mainland and take a ferry from the ports of Patra (240kms), Astakos (320kms) or Kyllini (320kms). A ferry service also connects the islands of Lefkada to Ithaca.

The ports of Patra and Kyllini are close to the airport of Araxos in the Peloponnese, while the port of Astakos is close to the airport of Preveza. From Lefkada, one leaves for Ithaca from the ports of Nidri or Vassiliki.

If you are interested in some island hopping, there is a flight service (Sky Express) from Corfu to Kefalonia, and a hydrofoil island hopping ferry service which covers the Ionian islands of Corfu, Paxos, Ithaca, Kefalonia and Zakynthos. As Ithaca can be readily accessed from the respective islands of Kefalonia and Lefkada and Zakynthos, the hiring of a car to take advantage of island hopping possibilities is often seen as a useful option.
