

TACD event on Competition: all eyes on Big Data and Big Pharma

Wednesday 20 June 2018
The Office, Rue d'Arlon 80, 1040 Brussels

BEUC's and TACD's event on Competition will provide a platform for experts to look at the trans-Atlantic dimension of enforcement of competition law in two very important areas for consumers: privacy and access to medicines. Although digital markets and pharma may seem unrelated at first sight, they have in common the increasing level of market concentration that directly affects consumers' fundamental rights to privacy and to higher standards of health.

9.00-9.30 Introductory remarks: Birgit Krueger (German Federal Cartel Office)

9.30-10.45 Panel 1: What is the link between privacy and competition law?

With the entry into force of the GDPR and the increasing trend of competition authorities to consider privacy in their assessments, it is essential to understand and evaluate the interplay between these two important policy areas. Our expert panel will discuss the EU and US approaches towards the (indirect) role of competition law in addressing consumers' privacy.

Panellists:

- Guillaume Lorient (DG Competition, European Commission)
- Thomas Vinje (Clifford Chance)
- Birgit Krueger (German Federal Cartel Office)
- Orla Lynskey (LSE)
- Gene Kimmelman (Public Knowledge)

10.45-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-11.30 Keynote speech by Rohit Chopra, Federal Trade Commissioner

11.30-12.45 Panel 2: How can antitrust help ensure the affordability of medicines?

Recent cases in the US and the EU have shown the increasingly important role that antitrust law enforcement plays in the market of medicines to ensure that pharmaceutical companies do not abuse their market dominance to the detriment of consumers. This panel will discuss the role that antitrust law enforcement plays in cases of excessive pricing of medicines and the role of consumer groups to identify potential abuses in the US and the EU.

Panellists:

- Rainer Becker (DG Competition, European Commission)
- Luisa Crisigiovanni (Altroconsumo)
- Jamie Love (Knowledge Ecology International)
- Sergio Napolitano (Medicines for Europe)
- Rohit Chopra (Federal Trade Commission)

Moderator: Agustin Reyna, BEUC, The European Consumer Organisation