



EUROPEAN COMPETITION
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

8th ECLA ANNUAL COMPETITION LAW CONFERENCE

21-23 May 2026, Mallorca

Program

Thursday, 21st May 2026

19:30-23:00 **Cocktail at the Beach Club Balneario Illetes**
Passeig Illetes, 52A - 07181 Calvià (Mallorca, Balears)

Friday, 22nd May 2026 – "Sala Athenea" on the 8th floor of the Conference Hotel

09:30-09:45 **Welcome address**

09:45-10:45 **Keynote speech**
Prof. Nicolas Diebold, University of Lucerne, Member of the Swiss Competition Commission WEKO, Switzerland
Moderator: David Mamane, Schellenberg Wittmer, Switzerland

10:45-11:15 – **Coffee break** –

11:15-12:45 **Exchange of information through public channels: Navigating competition law risks in an (overly?) transparent world**
Preben Milde Thorbjørnsen, Wikborg Rein, Norway
Petra Linsmeier, Gleiss Lutz, Germany
Dirk Middelschulte, VP Global Chief Counsel Competition, Unilever, Brussels
Moderator: Ami Paanajärvi, Roschier, Finland

12:45-14:15 – **Lunch** – *Restaurant Bonavista on the 7th floor of the Conference Hotel*

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14:15-15:45 **Digital infrastructure – digital sovereignty and fair and non-discriminatory access**

Prof. Nicolas Diebold, University of Lucerne, Member of the Swiss Competition Commission WEKO, Switzerland

Goran Serdarevic, Frontier Economics, Czech Republic, UK

Axel Desmedt, President of the Belgian Competition Authority, Belgium

Moderator: Michael Tschudin, Wenger Vieli, Switzerland

15:45-16:15 – Coffee break –

16:15-17:45 **Context matters! Translating the ECJ “by object” doctrine into national case law**

Donald Slater, Ashurst, Brussels

Simone Kohnz, E.CA Economics, Germany

Maurits Terlouw, Van Doorne, Netherlands

Moderator: Anca Jurcovan, Wolf Theiss, Romania

19:30 – Dinner – *FORN de Sant Joan, Carrer de Sant Joan, 4, 07012 Palma*
Buses leaving from the Hotel at 19:00

Saturday, 23rd May 2026 – “Sala Athenea” on the 8th floor of the Conference Hotel

09:30-11:00 **From bright lines to blurred lines: Dealing with below-threshold concentrations**

Fabiana Campopiano, Pedersoli Gattai, Italy

Grégoire Ryelandt, deprevernet, Belgium

Maija Brossard, UGGC, France

Alexandru Caprau, Schönherr, Austria

Moderator: Tim Raats, BarentsKrans, Netherlands

11:00-11:30 – Coffee break –

11:30-13:00 **Interaction of public procurement regulations and competition law across the EU**

Susana Campuzano Fernández, Director of Competition at the National Markets and Competition Commission CNMC, Spain

Giorgio Bitonto, Bonelli Erede, Italy

Bart Creve, Kromann Reumert, Denmark

Balint Bassola, Bassola Law Firm, Hungary

Moderator: Patricia Vidal, Uría Menéndez, Spain

13:00-13:15 **Closing and vote on the next venue**

13:15 – Lunch – *Restaurant Bonavista on the 7th floor of the Conference Hotel*



Panel details

FRIDAY

Exchange of information through public channels: Navigating competition law risks in an (overly?) transparent world

In an era defined by digital transparency and rapid information dissemination, companies frequently communicate with the market through public channels – such as earnings calls, investor briefings, published price lists, and press releases. While these disclosures are often necessary for regulatory compliance and stakeholder engagement, they seem to have recently caught the eyes of competition law enforcers as well. The aim of this panel is to examine the delicate balance between legitimate public communications and the alleged risk of unlawful information exchange that could facilitate collusion or reduce market uncertainty among competitors.

Panelists:

- **Preben Milde Thorbjørnsen**, Wikborg Rein, Norway
- **Petra Linsmeier**, Gleiss Lutz, Germany
- **Dirk Middelschulte**, VP Global Chief Counsel Competition, Unilever, Brussels

Moderator: **Ami Paanajärvi**, Roschier, Finland

Digital infrastructure – digital sovereignty and fair and non-discriminatory access

In the rapidly evolving AI-economy, digital infrastructure serves as the indispensable backbone, requiring a foundation that is fundamentally trustworthy, independent, and reliable. However, the high capital costs of building such infrastructure – such as massive data centers, fiber nets, LLMs – often lead to significant market concentration. What role does competition law play to ensure fair and non-discriminatory access, effectively preventing dominant players from using their power to exclude rivals or lock in customers? May we draw on experience on access to infrastructure from the old economy? What aspects shall be prioritized when building this infrastructure? May competition laws also ensure digital sovereignty?

Panelists:

- **Prof. Nicolas Diebold**, University of Lucerne, Member of the Swiss Competition Commission WEKO, Switzerland
- **Goran Serdarevic**, Frontier Economics, Czech Republic, UK
- **Axel Desmedt**, President of the Belgian Competition Authority, Belgium

Moderator: **Michael Tschudin**, Wenger Vieli, Switzerland

Context matters! Translating the ECJ “by object” doctrine into national case law

Context matters (as well as of the content and objectives)! Despite the judicial mandate for contextual nuance, predicting the fate of non-naked restrictions remains a high-stakes gamble. We aim to bridge the gap between high-level ECJ principles and the ground-level reality of national enforcement and discover the “contextual top 7” – the cases where authorities or courts looked past the label to do a reality check of context, including a masterclass in the tricky world of labour restrictions (no spoiler!).

Panelists:

- **Simone Kohnz**, E.CA Economics, Germany
- **Donald Slater**, Ashurst, Brussels
- **Maurits Terlouw**, Van Doorne, Netherlands

Moderator: **Anca Jurcovan**, Wolff Theiss, Romania



Panel details

SATURDAY

From bright lines to blurred lines: Dealing with below-threshold concentrations

Advising on below-threshold concentrations is becoming increasingly complicated. Different call-in regimes and active enforcement under articles 101 and 102 TFEU affect legal certainty. Navigating the changing landscape is a far cry from the simple threshold analysis that used to be common in continental Europe. This session explores several topics regarding recent developments in the field of merger control, attempting to provide practical solutions to promote legal certainty for our clients. Those topics include: How are we anticipating and handling Towercast-investigations? How do call-in powers affect transactions and timelines? Can we agree on a preferred model that addresses legitimate competition concerns and provides sufficient clarity to undertakings?

Panelists:

- **Fabiana Campopiano**, Pedersoli Gattai, Italy
- **Grégoire Ryelandt**, deprevernet, Belgium
- **Maija Brossard**, UGGC, France
- **Alexandru Caprau**, Schönherr, Austria

Moderator: **Tim Raats**, BarentsKrans, Netherlands

Interaction of public procurement regulations and competition law across the EU

Competition law infringements trigger consequences extending beyond monetary fines, including exclusion from public procurement opportunities across Europe. This panel brings together enforcement authorities and practitioners to examine national implementations of Directive 2014/24/EU, exploring prohibition mechanisms, cross-border implications for EU-funded projects, and corporate awareness gaps. Panelists will analyse how compliance programmes and self-cleaning measures function as safeguards in both procurement and sanctioning contexts, whilst discussing innovative enforcement trends, including AI-based detection tools transforming tender monitoring. Attendees will gain practical takeaways for navigating this complex intersection of competition and procurement law.

Panelists:

- **Susana Campuzano Fernández**, Director of Competition at the National Markets and Competition Commission CNMC, Spain
- **Giorgio Bitonto**, Bonelli Erede, Italy
- **Bart Creve**, Kromann Reumert, Denmark
- **Balint Bassola**, Bassola Law Firm, Hungary

Moderator: **Patricia Vidal**, Uría Menéndez, Spain

Conference Hotel:

Hotel Bonanza Palace Playa

Passeig Illetes, s/n

07181 Ses Illetes – Calvià (Mallorca, Balears)

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