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BIOGRAPHY

Tom is an Associate in the Antitrust and Competition team, based in BCLP's Brussels office. His practice includes all aspects of UK and EU competition law, with a focus on merger control and foreign investment regulation.

Tom advises clients across a range of sectors on multi-jurisdictional merger control and foreign investment, competition law compliance and regulatory investigations.

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Foreign Direct Investment: key recent and future developments in Europe and the US

At a time of significant geopolitical challenges, many jurisdictions are looking at their investment screening regimes to ensure that they can adequately safeguard national security and public order. Within this context, there have been – or will likely soon be – significant changes to FDI regimes across the world. In this article, BCLP's experts in Brussels, Hamburg, London, Paris and Washington DC explore current or forthcoming amendments to the FDI regimes in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

Insights

Jan 29, 2024

The Year Ahead For M&A Regulation In Brussels

2024 is shaping up to be a year of significant change in Brussels. European Parliamentary elections in June will be followed by the appointment of a new Commission in the autumn. After two terms and 10 years at the helm of EU competition policy (which is unprecedented in recent times), Margrethe Vestager is likely to move on from her post as the bloc's top antitrust enforcer – and her replacement will likely bring a new enforcement agenda. This article explores the top current trends and developments affecting M&A regulation in Europe, focusing on the continued targeting of “below threshold” deals via Article 22 of the EU Merger Regulation (“EUMR”), the rise of the new ecosystems theory of harm, the role of the Foreign Direct Investment (“FDI”) and Foreign Subsidies Regulation (“FSR”) screening regimes and sustainability as a factor in the substantive assessment of mergers – all set against the backdrop of the incomin...

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The EU's Foreign Subsidies Regulation Goes Live as the European Commission Finalises the Notification Requirements for Businesses

The EU's Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR) entered into force on 12 July 2023. Its M&A and public procurement notification regimes will go live on 12 October 2023. On 10 July 2023, the European Commission (Commission) adopted its final version of the FSR's Implementing Regulation alongside the template notification forms. This gives further information on how the FSR regime works in practice, and specifies the information that must be

included for mandatory M&A and public procurement notifications. We have written previously about the FSR regime at the beginning of 2023. This article looks at the new FSR regime, and what this means in practice for those doing business within the EU.

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The Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill - important changes to the UK's existing competition law

As we reported previously, on 25 April this year the UK Government introduced the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill ("DMCC Bill"). Many of the headlines about the DMCC Bill have understandably related to the new regulatory regime for digital markets and companies with "strategic market status", and there are also changes proposed to the UK's consumer protection laws. However, the DMCC Bill will also make a number of other fundamental changes to the UK's competition law regime – including in relation to merger control, the territorial reach of UK competition law and public enforcement. This article focuses on the aspects of the DMCC Bill that impact the UK's existing merger control and competition law enforcement framework, and considers how these changes may impact businesses operating across the UK.

Insights

May 09, 2023

The CMA's Draft Sustainability Guidance - the latest agency to step into the international green competition policy debate

The UK's Competition and Markets Authority ("CMA") has published its long-awaited draft guidance on sustainability agreements between competitors (the "Draft Guidance"). In doing so, it acknowledges that collaborations seeking to tackle climate change may warrant special treatment. As with much of the guidance published by a number of other competition authorities, the CMA's focus is on collaboration agreements between competitors in relation to environmental sustainability measures. In this article, we look at not only the CMA's new Draft Guidance, but also at the other key policy developments in this area from the European Commission, Netherlands, Austria, Greece and Japan. We also look briefly at what is happening in Germany and the United States.

Insights

May 02, 2023

The UK Government's Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill is published

On 25 April 2023, the UK Government published the long-awaited Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill (the "Bill"). The legislative framework that will be provided for the Digital Markets Unit ("DMU") is arguably the most eye-catching feature of the Bill. However, it also contains hugely important changes to competition and consumer law that will have far-reaching impacts across the UK economy. This short article provides an overview of the key points arising from the Bill in its current form.