



## **PAUL CULLIFORD**

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## **BIOGRAPHY**

Paul is a New Zealand qualified Senior Associate and registered as a foreign lawyer with the Brussels Bar based in BCLP's Brussels office, where his practices focuses on antitrust and competition law. Paul's experience covers all the key areas of competition law, with a particular focus on merger control and foreign investment regulation. Paul holds a postgraduate qualification in EU competition law from King's College London.

Paul regularly advises clients on multi-jurisdictional merger control and foreign investment, competition law compliance and regulatory investigations. Paul has advised clients across multiple sectors including technology, online platforms, retail, energy and entertainment.

## ADMISSIONS

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### **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.

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## **BCLP is advising Industrials REIT Limited (Industrials) on its £500m+ take private by Blackstone**

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## **Legal 500 EMEA 2023**

BCLP has been ranked in 14 practice areas across 4 jurisdictions in the 2023 edition of The Legal 500 EMEA Guide.