

NEW RULES FOR THE DIGITAL DECADE

WIK Conference, 6 - 7 September 2022
Club of the University Foundation, Egmontstreet 11, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Programme

1st day: 6 September 2022

NEW RULES FOR DIGITAL MARKETS

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome & Registration

09:30 – 10:30

KEYNOTE - REGULATION IN THE DIGITAL ERA: CAN EUROPE BE AN INNOVATOR AS WELL AS A REGULATORY LEADER?

In this keynote address, Anthony Whelan, Digital Advisor to Commission President von der Leyen will present the European Commission's vision for the digital economy. He will explore Europe's role in setting a benchmark for the governance of platforms and data in the digital society, and discuss the balancing act that regulators play in fostering innovation and competition in digital platforms and services while protecting consumers and business users from exploitation and misinformation. Anthony will put into context the Commission's latest regulatory initiatives in this field including the DMA, DSA, Data Act and AI Act alongside its efforts (including substantial funding programmes) to support Europe as a hub for digital innovation and investment in Gigabit infrastructure. The importance of digital sovereignty, security and resilience in light of recent geopolitical developments will also be explored.

KEYNOTE

Anthony Whelan, Digital Advisor to Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

10:30 – 11:15

KEYNOTE - THE ROLE OF COMPETITION LAW IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

In this keynote address, the Director General of DG Competition Olivier Guersent will explore the role played by competition authorities in fostering choice and innovation in digital industries and discuss the future role of competition law in the sector. Can anti-trust action be timely and relevant in fast-moving industries? Has it proven to be an adequate deterrent to abuse? As ex ante rules take on a greater role in the sector (notably for platforms and data), what will be the remit for competition authorities? What developments are expected in merger policy and state aid in the digital field?

KEYNOTE

Olivier Guersent, Director General, DG Competition, European Commission

11:15 – 11:40 Break

11:40 – 12:00

CHALLENGES FOR THE DATA ECONOMY

Pilar del Castillo, MEP and rapporteur for the EPP on the Data Act provides her view of the challenges posed by the data economy and the potential role that could be played by new EU legislation in opening up opportunities for innovation while protecting consumer interests.

KEYNOTE

Pilar del Castillo, MEP and Rapporteur for the Data Act

12:00 – 12:20

DATA AND AI: A VIEW FROM THE CONNECTED CAR

In this view from industry, Jonas Rönkvist, reflects on how Volvo Cars plans to exploit opportunities from big data and artificial intelligence and the practical challenges ahead.

KEYNOTE

Jonas Rönkvist, Head of Data Business and Strategy, Volvo Cars

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12:20 – 13:00

ANALYSING THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED DATA ACT

The proposed European Data Act will require holders of data including data from connected devices to make this data available to end-users as well as potential competitors, at the request of end-users at a reasonable charge and without discrimination. The Data Act also introduces significant measures which seek to promote data sharing, interoperability and portability. In this session, we will explore what these provisions might mean from a practical perspective, the implications for consumer welfare and innovation and examine whether there are lessons to be learned from other sectors such as telecoms and banking.

Lukas Wiewiorra, Head of Department, Markets and Prospects WIK
Andrea Sanders-Winter, Head of Subdivision, Bundesnetzagentur

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00

THE DIGITAL MARKETS ACT IN PRACTICE: HOW WILL SELF-EXECUTION WORK?

The soon-to-be approved DMA will introduce rules which seek to prevent the largest platforms from engaging in unfair business practices, and thereby boost innovation and choice. The DMA is intended to be to a large extent "self-executing". However, steps will be needed by gatekeeper platforms and the European Commission (as the newly appointed regulator in this space) to apply the legislation in practice. In this session we will look at the key measures of the DMA and explore in detail the next steps in its implementation, including the designation process, and the measures that may be introduced by gatekeeper platforms to meet the requirements of the new instrument.

Prabhat Agarwal, Head of Unit, Digital Services and Platforms, EC
Prof. Alexandre de Streel, Professor European Law, University of Namur & Academic Director at CERRE
Carel Maske, Director Competition EMEA Microsoft
Philip Malloch, Director Economic and Social Policy, Meta
Gene Burrus, Director Global Competition Policy, Spotify

16:00– 16:20 Break

16:20 – 17:00

KEYNOTE: GLOBAL TRENDS AND IMPACTS OF PLATFORM REGULATION

In this keynote speech, Prof. William Kovacic Global Competition Professor of Law and Policy at George Washington University and former Chair of the US Federal Trade Commission, will highlight how the European approach to platform and data regulation contrasts with approaches taken in other countries and regions, including the UK, US and Asia, and reflect on the implications for innovation and competitiveness as well as consumer welfare.

KEYNOTE

Prof. William Kovacic, Global Competition Professor of Law and Policy, George Washington University

17:00 – 18:30 WIK 40th ANNIVERSARY COCKTAILS