

Meeting of the City of London Law Society Competition Law Committee held at 5:30pm on 27 January 2022 in person and via videoconference

Minutes

Committee members were joined by guest speaker, John McInnes, Senior Legal Director for Policy and International at the Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**), and discussed a number of significant proposed competition law reforms and policy changes, the CMA's work regarding these areas and how the CMA's work is evolving following Brexit. This included discussion about:

- Timing and next steps regarding the proposed competition, consumer and digital reforms set out in the consultations published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in July 2021, including whether all the proposed reforms might be addressed in a single Bill when/if taken forward.
- The application of competition law to sustainability initiatives, including the need for greater guidance for relevant cooperation agreements, whether changes in the law are needed, and timing regarding the advice that the Business Secretary has requested from the CMA about how the competition and consumer regimes can better support the UK's Net Zero and sustainability goals.
- Ongoing and future parallel EU and UK reviews of Block Exemption Regulations and related guidelines, including the extent to which these reviews are likely to lead to divergence or continued consistency between the EU and UK is desirable.
- The CMA's greater international profile following Brexit and ability to investigate the UK aspects of the largest cases that previously tended to fall to the European Commission to review, and how the CMA's relationships and cooperation with authorities in other jurisdictions are evolving.
- How rising cost of living may be relevant to the CMA's work, including in relation to case prioritisation decisions and future "state of competition" reports.
- The CMA's open letter published in December 2021 calling for views on whether to make changes to its rules and guidance for licence modification appeals, and whether greater alignment between the regimes for different regulated sectors would be desirable.
- CMA resource, oversight and potential implications and timing regarding forthcoming senior personnel changes.

Attending:

Nicole Kar	Chair, Linklaters LLP
Ian Giles	Vice Chair, Norton Rose Fulbright LLP
Charles Bankes	Simmons & Simmons LLP
Antonio Bavasso	Allen & Overy LLP
Robert Bell	Memery Crystal
Mark Daniels	Norton Rose Fulbright LLP
Nelson Jung	Clifford Chance LLP
Dorothy Livingston	Herbert Smith Freehills LLP
Dominic Long	Allen & Overy LLP
Niklas Maydell	Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
Becket McGrath	Euclid Law Ltd
Sam Mobley	Baker McKenzie LLP
Jonathan Parker	Latham & Watkins LLP
Nigel Parr	Ashurst LLP
Paula Riedel	Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Isabel Taylor	Slaughter & May
Matthew Rous	CLLS
Kevin Hart	CLLS
John McInnes	CMA