Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the first issue of World Competition for 2025.

This issue is a particularly compelling one, given the wide range of topics that it covers. The six articles published provide with a much interesting read which we hope will be gratifying.

The first article deals with the Digital Markets Act (DMA). In ***The credibility of the DMA's compliance reports***, Alba Ribera Martínez seeks to analyse the compliance reports submitted by the seven gatekeepers in 2024. After setting out the legal framework, the paper maps out the gatekeeper's compliance strategies and meters them against the benchmark of their credibility.

Next up, an article that illustrates the consequences of parallel regulation of digital markets at EU and national level. In ***Taming Big Tech – A shift in paradigm and its implications for the principle of ne bis in idem***, Bernadette Zelger explains in detail the potential conflicts with the principle of *ne bis in idem* that may occur in some jurisdictions following the entry into force of the DMA at EU level and the German provision §19a GWB. The paper aims to identify scenarios of possible parallel proceedings of the different (EU and national) provisions and argues that, while the current legal framework is workable, the decisive element in many potential scenarios of parallel proceedings surrounds the notion of *idem*, that is, the element of the identity of the facts.

The third contribution covers the interesting issue of regulating pricing power when dealing with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) ratings. Its author, Melvin Tjon Akon, studies the topic at length in ***What the FRANDT?! Understanding the regulation of pricing power in the Single Market for ESG ratings.*** This article discusses the market for ESG ratings and the competitive issues that may arise due to outsized pricing power by certain providers and how they affect pricing choices.

The fourth article offers a literature review of the increasing Chinese investments in the EU. In ***A systematic literature review on mergers, acquisitions and other foreign direct investments by Chinese firms in the EU***, Caroline Buts, Marc Jegers and Na Wang apply the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) methodology to analyse the literature on M&A, FDI and foreign subsidies by Chinese companies in the EU. The article delves into the

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theoretical frameworks that have been applied, the motivations of Chinese companies to engage in these types of transactions in the EU, the role of the government support and the effects that have been studied.

The fifth contribution takes us to Latin America with ***Competition law in Latin America and global greenhouse gas emissions – The way forward.*** Its author, Francisco Beneke Ávila, provides an overview of the possible market power problems associated with the development of Latin America's renewable energy technologies, such as high concentration of mining and refining activities, as well as market power in food value chains that may be driving deforestation in the Amazon. Additionally, Francisco sketches antitrust enforcement interventions that do not require changing the prevailing goals and analytical framework of competition law enforcement.

For the sixth and last article, we travel to the Middle East with ***How comprehensive are competition laws? The case of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.*** Reyadh Faras and Abbas Al-Mejren analyse the competition laws in the GCC countries, focusing on four areas: (1) authority provisions; (2) merger control; (3) abuse of dominance; and (4) anticompetitive agreements. The authors also identify the gaps and shortcomings in these countries' laws compared to best-practice in competition law.

I wish you a pleasant reading.

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