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KONKURRENSVERKET
2018-03-19
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Dnr 370/2016
KSnr 363 Aktbil 10

12th ASCOLA Conference

COMPETITION LAW FOR THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

+ WORKSHOP ON COMPETITION LAW ISSUES

Stockholm, Sweden

15 June – 17 June 2017

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Academic Society for Competition Law (ASCOLA) will hold its 12th annual conference from Thursday 15 June to Saturday 17 June 2017 at Stockholm University, Law Faculty, Sweden.

Topic

"Competition Law for the Digital Economy"

The digital economy is gradually gaining traction. A broad variety of technological developments, including the introduction of Internet of Things, artificial intelligence and Big Data play a role. What makes the digital economy different from the Old Economy or, even, from other developments of the New Economy and what are the implications for the application of competition rules? How does competition law interact with other legal regimes, like data protection / privacy rules, unfair trading laws and regulatory regimes? At the 12th Ascola conference, we would like to reflect systematically and critically on these questions, including issues like non-human created cartels, perfect discrimination and competition, competition law issues raised by e-payment-systems, the sharing economy, self-driving cars, the increasing role of data (Big Data, Open Data, data mining etc.) and the like.

Questions

The conference will be structured around five major themes. We invite scholars to propose papers addressing one or more of the following themes:

(1) **General Perspectives on Competition Policy for the Digital Economy:** What are the new challenges created by the Digital Economy? Is the Digital Economy mainly self-regulated? What role for standardization in the digital economy?

(2) **Application of Traditional Tools to the Digital Economy:** Should markets and thus market power be defined differently in the digital world? How does the Digital Economy affect market analysis? How should competition law treat firms that have developed a new technology that has not yet been used in the market? How should multi-sided markets affect competition law analysis? How should we take into consideration efficiencies in the digital economy?

(3) **Conduct that Violates Antitrust:** Should abusive behaviour be judged differently in the Digital Economy? Are there new forms of abusive behaviour that arise in such industries, or should established doctrines be applied differently? How should we deal with aspects of the

sharing economy or with instances in which Artificial Intelligence creates or facilitates conduct that might violate competition law? Do price-tracking algorithms violate competition law?

(4) The interface between data protection rules, consumer protection rules and/or other sector specific rules and competition law: What should be the relationship between such rules? Should competition law be granted primacy in certain situations? Do we need new institutional arrangements in order to coordinate data protection, consumer protection and competition law enforcement?

(5) Remedies to be imposed in case of restriction on digital markets: Do the special characteristics of the digital economy affect the application of remedies, and if so- how? When should behavioural and/or structural remedies be applied, if at all? Should specific procedural guarantees be put in place?

The conference topic will not be limited to any specific jurisdiction but aims at having a discussion on the evolution of these issues throughout the world. The papers should potentially facilitate a discussion with regard to similar problems encountered worldwide.

Workshop

During the conference, a workshop will be organised.

As in previous years, the workshop will take the form of parallel sessions allowing interested scholars to present their most recent research on any relevant topic of competition law. The workshop is open to any topic of interest (including jurisdiction-specific topics). Thus, submissions do not have to relate to the themes of the conference. However, we are hoping for two specific panels:

One panel in the workshop dedicated to agency structure and institutional design. In this panel, we will discuss the importance of institutional design and what impact the choice of agency structures may have on the consistency, effectiveness and fairness of competition law enforcement, and institutional developments worldwide.

Moreover, an additional panel panel will be dedicated to competition law for the digital economy in developing countries. Should competition law be used specifically in developing countries when dealing with the digital economy?

The papers for the workshop will undergo the same evaluation process applicable to papers relating to the conference's general theme. No financial assistance will be available for participation in the workshop.

Submission of Papers

ASCOLA members are invited to submit **DRAFT PAPERS** or **EXTENDED ABSTRACTS** (minimum of 8 pages) no later than **February 1 2017**. Authors will be informed by March 15 2017, by the latest, whether they have been selected for the conference. The papers will be evaluated by an 'Evaluation Committee'. Non-members can submit papers, and take advantage of that opportunity to apply for membership.

Authors of selected papers will then have up to **May 15, 2017** to submit their papers for the conference.

The organisers retain the right to exclude a potential author whose paper does not meet the quality requirements set for the conference.

Venue for publication of the conference papers

Provided their author(s) agree(s) thereto, the papers will be published on the conference webpage.

In addition, the authors of the selected papers relating to the topic of the conference will have a choice to submit their papers to an issue of the **Journal of Antitrust Enforcement** potentially dedicated to ASCOLA's papers or **to a book collection** published by **Edward Elgar**. The editors might need to make a selection based on quality, should either venue be more popular than the number of papers that can be published therein.

Costs

We have received a generous grant from the Swedish Competition Authority, which will make it possible for speakers at those parts of the conference dedicated to the general theme to be fully reimbursed for travel and hotel expenses. The conference itself is free of charge for all ASCOLA members, including coffee, lunches and dinner.

Speakers for the workshop are expected to cover their costs for travel and hotel expenses but ASCOLA will provide full or partial scholarships, depending on available funds, to those who have been selected for the workshop and are showing that they cannot finance their participation otherwise. Decisions on scholarships will be taken by a 'Scholarship Committee'.

Awards

Two awards will potentially be given during the conference.

- A **Best Junior Paper Award** will be delivered for the best contribution among those submitted by authors not older than 35 years. In order to be eligible for this award, scholars should specifically state their date of birth at the time of submission.
- An **Award for Distinguished Services to Ascola** will be given out to one or several Ascola members who have made a substantial contribution to the development of the association.

Information, contact

The email address for the conference is: ascola@juridicum.su.se. Papers as well as all questions, comments or correspondence can be directed to this address.

ASCOLA- THE place to showcase competition law scholarship!