

## **Kseniya Smyrnova, *EU Competition Law*, Odesa 2013, 144 p.**

The reviewed study is a welcome addition to European competition law literature. Modern patterns of legal research call upon scholars to take a complex interdisciplinary approach to their work. This book certainly contributes to such attempts.

The unifying theme of this book is the analysis of EU competition policy and the legal foundations of EU competition law. Any scholar interested in the competition policy and the internal market of the EU will benefit from the highly interesting set of information and data presented therein.

The book is well structured and logically construed. The study is divided into six chapters. Chapter 1 deals with an overview of EU competition policy and the legal foundations of its competition law. Explained therein are the concept of competition and the history of EU competition policy against a background of general European integration objectives and achievements. The Author rightly emphasizes here the importance of the trade criterion for EU competition policy.

Chapter 2 offers a comprehensive study of Article 101(1) TFEU and the general provisions of its application. The first part of the chapter shows the difficulties in considering and allying basic legal concepts such as ‘undertaking’, ‘single economic entity’, ‘appreciability’ and so on. Furthermore, the Author provides here an in-depth analysis of the *de minimis* doctrine, the concept of the relevant market as well as looks into the substance of the leniency policy. Considered also is the cooperation between the European Commission and the authorities and the judiciaries of individual EU Member States. Chapter 3 deals with Article 101(3) TFEU covering, *inter alia*, exemptions from the prohibition contained in Article 101(1) TFEU and vertical agreements. In particular, the Author scrutinizes types of exemptions and conditions for block exemptions in the European internal market. Continuing this analysis, Chapter 4 examines cartel practices and exemptions for horizontal agreements in the EU. Therein, the Author defines ‘hardcore cartels’ in EU law and their impact on horizontal agreements on cooperation.

Chapter 5 tackles the very important issue of abuse of a dominant position within the European internal market. In particular, it depicts various forms of abuse and encapsulates the meaning of the concept of ‘dominant’ in EU law and the jurisprudence of European Courts.

Chapter 6 provides a substantive overview of EU merger regulations and related jurisprudence of European Courts.

Chapters 2–6 complete the study and make the book work as a whole by drawing together all of the threads identified in the first chapter – they elaborate on the general framework explaining the legal foundation of EU competition policy. Undoubtedly, the study will be very useful for academics and practitioners active in the area of EU competition law and policy. Great added value is provided by the book’s case studies (pp. 130–138). They can be used in class and for individual work. Well structured and comprehensive tables offer access-friendly information on the most complicated provisions of EU competition law.

In any event, the book is an invaluable source of information on comparative and international relations which should be a starting point for any closer investigation in this field.

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