Competition Law

Master in L&M 6E 2026/2027

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Class Schedule	14:00-18:00

Introduction

This course aims at enabling students to describe and apply the essential concepts of Competition Law for international businesses. Given the global reach of this LLM, the course focuses on EU Competition Law, with examples being drawn from other jurisdictions, so students can have a grasp the challenges of compliance with competition rules in a globalized economy.

Goals

At the end of this course, students should be able to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Explain the legal and economic concepts that underpin competition law as applied by the European Commission and European Courts (Law in Action);
- Identify the differences in the scope and structure of competition rules: (i) rules on agreements, concerted practices and decisions of associations of undertakings, (ii) abuse of dominance, and (iii) merger control.
- Evaluate hypothetical cases as a competition lawyer using competition law methodologies and correctly *apply* the relevant competition rules to those cases from different practical perspectives (undertakings injured by restrictive practices, undertakings facing an investigation; competition authorities; courts).
- Reflect on the role of case law in the development of competition law

For each topic within the programme, specific goals will be defined and published on the Moodle e-learning platform to serve as guidance learning and to define assessment parameters.

Methods

The course aims to lead students to master the legal and economic concepts that underpin competition law in action and to develop the ability to apply competition rules to real cases. Such competences shall be developed through active class participation in the discussion of selected essential court decisions that contribute to build a specialized knowledge of competition law.

Learning activities and assessment activities will develop the ability of students to *explain* the legal and economic concepts that underpin competition law as applied by the European Commission and European Courts (Law in Action).

Each unit will focus on the scope and structure of competition rules: (i) rules on agreements, concerted practices and decisions of associations of undertakings, (ii) abuse of dominance, and (iii) merger control, enabling students to *identify* such elements in each specific setting. Learning and assessment activities will also require students to *evaluate* hypothetical cases as a competition lawyer using competition law methodologies and correctly *apply* the relevant competition rules to those cases from the different practical perspectives (undertakings injured by restrictive practices, undertakings facing an investigation; competition authorities; courts).

For each Unit, there will be a Guest Lecture (one hour) by a reputed practitioner at one of the major Law Firms that have partnered with our Programme. This will provide students the possibility of interacting with a leading competition lawyer and gain practical insights.

Course Contents

Unit 1. Foundations of Competition Law – Days 1 and 2
1.1. The goals of Competition Law (Day 1 – Monday, January 4th)
1.2. Economic analysis of competition (Day 1 – Monday, January 4th)
1.3. Scope of Competition Law: Undertakings and the single economic unit theory (Day 2 – Tuesday, January 5th)
1.4. Enforcement of EU Competition Law: Institutional actors and procedures (Day 2 – Tuesday, January 5th)

Unit 2. Agreements, concerted practices and decisions of associations of undertakings (Days 3 to 5)
2.1. Article 101 TFEU: Structure and key concepts (Day 3 – Thursday, January 6th)
2.2. Vertical restraints (Day 3 – Wednesday January 6th and Day 4 – Thursday, January 7th)
2.3. Horizontal restraints: Cartels (Day 4 – Thursday, January 7th and Day 5 – Friday, January 9th)
2.4. Horizontal restraints: Joint Ventures and other forms of cooperation (Day 5 – Friday, January 9th)

Unit 3 – Abuse of dominance (Days 6 to 8)
3.1. Assessing dominance (Day 6 – Monday, January 11th)
3.2. Exclusionary abuses (Day 6 – Monday, January 11th and Day 7 – Tuesday, January 12th)
3.3. Exploitative abuses (Day 8 – Wednesday, January 13th)
3.4. Objective justification and efficiency defence (Day 8 – Wednesday, January 13th)

Unit 4 – Merger Control (Days 9 and 10)
4.1. EU merger control: Economic concentration and procedure (Day 9 – Thursday, January 14th)
4.2. Horizontal concentrations (Day 9 – Thursday, January 14th)
4.3. Non-horizontal concentrations (Day 10 – Friday, January 15th)
4.4. Merger remedies (Day 10 – Friday, January 15th)

Assessment

Teaching of this curricular unit has both a theoretical and practical nature. Classes will use the flipped classroom design, so students will be required to watch introductory videos and/or other materials to prepare before class (approximately two-hours work for each class hour). Learning and formative assessment tasks will be attributed to follow-up and consolidate class learning.

Students will be evaluated based on:

a) A written exam – 24 hours take-home exam (50%);

b) Their participation in class and written assignments, including simulation of a case study for each course unit (50%);

References

- BISHOP, Simon ; WALKER, Michael – *The Economics of EC Competition Law*, 3rd ed., London : Sweet & Maxwell, 2010;
- COLOMO, Pablo Ibáñez, *The Shaping of EU Competition Law*, Cambridge : Cambridge Univ. Press, 2018;
- COLOMO, Pablo Ibáñez, The New EU Competition Law, Oxford : Hart Publishing, 2023;
- EZRACHI, Ariel, EU Competition Law – An Analytical Guide to the Leading Cases, 8th ed., Oxford : Hart Publ., 2024;
- FAULL, Jonathan; NIKPAY Ali (orgs.) – *The EU Law of Competition*, 3rd ed., Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2014.
- JONES, Alison ; SUFFRIN, Brenda; DUNNE, Niamh, *EU Competition Law – Text, Cases, and Materials*, 8th ed., Oxford : Oxford Univ. Press, 2023;
- MESTMÄCKER, Ernst-Joachim; SCHWEITZER, Heike – *Europäisches Wettbewerbsrecht*, 3rd ed., Munique: Verlag C.H. Beck, 2014;
- MOURA E SILVA, Miguel, *Direito da concorrência. Uma introdução jurisprudencial*, 3d ed., Lisboa: AAFDL 2026 (Forthcoming);
- WHISH, Richard; BAILEY, David – *Competition Law*, 11th ed., Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2024.