

Enforcing the Rules of the Game: Competition, Regulation, and the Evolving Architecture of EU Law Enforcement

10–11 May 2027 | University of Warsaw / Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw (Poland)

Theme of the Conference

The enforcement of EU law stands at a critical juncture. A wave of digital regulation has created a dense and layered enforcement landscape. Each instrument carries its own institutional design, compliance logic, and allocation of powers between the European Commission and national authorities. At the same time, the established pillars of EU enforcement — above all competition law — continue to evolve through landmark case-law, new enforcement priorities, and deepening decentralisation. The question at the heart of this conference is: **what happens when these enforcement regimes converge, overlap, or collide — and are the institutions that must apply them fit for purpose?**

The practical stakes are high. Most of these new regimes rely heavily on enforcement at the national level by non-majoritarian institutions (NMIs) — competition authorities, data protection authorities, media regulators or telecommunication regulators — whose institutional readiness, independence, and mutual coordination are being tested as never before. At the same time, enforcement is increasingly shaped by forces that transcend the traditional regulatory frame: digital sovereignty concerns, dependency on hyperscalers, evolving theories of harm in platform markets, and transatlantic tensions over the reach of EU regulation. The forthcoming Digital Omnibus package may reshape the regulatory architecture itself. At the same time, regulatory sandboxes and other forms of regulatory experimentation — prominently embedded in the AI Act — are reshaping how compliance is tested, supervised, and enforced, raising important questions about equal treatment, legal certainty, innovation incentives, and the interaction between experimental governance and competition law constraints. These developments call not only for doctrinal analysis but also for new enforcement theories, systematic data collection, empirical methods, and interdisciplinary perspectives capable of grasping a landscape in flux and generating evidence-based conclusions and policy recommendations.

Against this backdrop, the conference invites scholars, policy-makers and practitioners to reflect on the **evolving architecture of EU law enforcement** at the intersection of competition, horizontal and sectoral regulation. We seek contributions that move beyond siloed analyses of individual instruments to examine the systemic challenges of enforcing EU law in an era of regulatory proliferation, institutional complexity, and geopolitical contestation.

Topics of Interest

We welcome submissions addressing, but not limited to, the following themes:

I. Competition Law and Regulation: Coherence, Convergence, Complementarity, and Conflict

- The interplay between the DMA and EU competition law (Articles 101, 102 TFEU, and merger control): complementary tools or regulatory redundancy?
- Lessons from early DMA enforcement for the design of future regulatory instruments
- The evolving doctrine of abuse of dominance in light of sector-specific regulation (e.g., *Android Auto*, *Lukoil Bulgaria*, the draft Article 102 Guidelines)
- Competition law as a 'gap-filler' for regulatory lacunae, and its limits
- The evolving landscape of EU merger control: new theories of harm, below-threshold transactions, and the boundaries of competition enforcement

II. Institutional Design, Authorities' Cooperation, Judicial Review and Multi-Level Enforcement

- Institutional coordination between the European Commission, national competition authorities (NCAs), national regulatory authorities (NRAs), and EU agencies
- The European Competition Network (ECN) after the ECN+ Directive: achievements and remaining gaps
- Enforcement competence allocation in multi-authority settings (competition, electronic communication, data protection, media regulation)
- The 'Enforcement Competence Test': how to design and allocate enforcement powers in the EU's shared legal order, and how to balance the need for compliance guidance with the principles of separation of powers (*trias politica*)
- National 'call-in' powers for below-threshold mergers and their implications for EU-level enforcement coherence
- Access of third parties to the proceedings, public input to the proceedings and transparency rules
- Judicial review of authorities decisions and role for constitutional review

III. Enforcement in the Digital and AI Era: Sovereignty, Dependency, Hyperscalers, AI Governance, Non-Economic Interests and Regulatory Experimentation

- Digital sovereignty and the EU's strategic autonomy in platform governance: rhetoric vs. enforcement reality
- Dependency on hyperscalers and digital infrastructure: competition concerns, systemic risks, and regulatory responses
- Theories of harm in digital markets: evolving approaches to platform power, self-preferencing, and ecosystem lock-in
- The Digital Omnibus package and the review of the EU's regulatory framework for digital markets: simplification, coherence, or deregulation?
- Enforcing the EU's digital rulebook — DMA, DSA, EMFA, AI Act, Data Act, and the future Digital Fairness Act: institutional design, AI Act enforcement architecture, coordination challenges, and accountability
- Regulatory sandboxes and regulatory experimentation under the AI Act: governance design, supervision models, competition law constraints, and implications for enforcement coherence

- A place of non-economic interests in the enforcement of competition law and digital regulations
- Transatlantic tensions over EU digital regulation: trade policy, diplomatic friction, and the future of enforcement cooperation
- Private enforcement of digital regulation: emerging trends at the national level

IV. Enforcement Theory, Methodology, and Interdisciplinary Perspectives

- Towards an EU enforcement theory: common principles across policy domains
- Empirical and data-driven approaches to studying enforcement effectiveness
- Behavioural insights and compliance: what drives adherence to EU law?
- Law & economics perspectives on optimal enforcement design
- Comparative enforcement: lessons from non-EU jurisdictions (US, UK, Asia-Pacific)
- The interaction between sectoral regulatory regimes and EU competition law
- The role of private actors, civil society, and whistleblowers in enforcement ecosystems

Submission Guidelines

We welcome abstract submissions from academics (including PhD researchers), policymakers (among others from NGOs and national and EU administration), and interdisciplinary teams conducting research on the enforcement of EU law.

Abstracts should count up to **500 words** and should include:

1. The title of the proposed paper
2. The research question(s) and main argument
3. The methodology employed (doctrinal, empirical, comparative, interdisciplinary, etc.)
4. The author(s)' name(s), institutional affiliation(s), and contact details

Please submit abstracts to: cars@uw.edu.pl

Key Dates

Milestone	Date
Deadline for abstract submission	15 October 2026
Notification of acceptance	5 November 2026

Submission of working papers	1 March 2027
Publication of working papers	1 May 2027
Conference	10–11 May 2027

Working Papers and Publication

Accepted authors will be required to submit a draft working paper prior to the conference. Drafts will be circulated among participants and may receive written or oral comments.

The working papers will be published in the EULEN Open Access Working Paper Series. Publication in the EULEN OA series does not preclude subsequent publication in peer-reviewed journals.

Selected papers will be considered for publication in a **special issue** of the *Yearbook of Antitrust and Regulatory Studies* (YARS®). YARS is a double peer-reviewed, open-access academic journal focusing on legal, economic, and management issues of antitrust and pro-competitive regulation, edited by the Centre for Antitrust and Regulatory Studies (CARS) and published by the University of Warsaw since 2008. The journal is indexed in Scopus, HeinOnline, DOAJ, and ERIH PLUS, and holds 'Class A' status from the Italian research agency ANVUR.

Format of the Conference

The conference will be held in person in Warsaw. The programme will be structured around thematic panels corresponding to the topics outlined above. The conference will feature:

- Keynote addresses by leading scholars
- Paper presentations selected on the basis of this Call for Papers
- Discussants drawn from academia, EU institutions, national authorities, and legal practice

Submissions from PhD candidates and early-career researchers are also welcomed. All accepted papers will be presented within the thematic panels, fostering dialogue across career stages and disciplines.

Participation is free of charge. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of participants.

Organisers

The scientific committee of the conference is composed by:

- **Prof. Maciej Bernatt** – University of Warsaw, Director of CARS and Chair in European Economic Law at the Faculty of Management
- **Dr. Małgorzata Kozak** – Institute of Legal Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Researcher
- **Dr. Laura Zoboli** – IE University, Assistant Professor and Scientific Coordinator of CARS
- **Dr. Zlatina Georgieva** – Utrecht University, Assistant Professor
- **Dr. Mira Scholten** – Utrecht University, Associate Professor and Coordinator of EULEN

Abstracts and subsequent working papers will be reviewed and selected by the Scientific Committee.

About the Jean Monnet Network on EU Law Enforcement (EULEN)

EULEN was established in 2019 as an initiative of nine European universities, funded by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ programme (2019–2023). The network brings together academics and practitioners through annual conferences, the eulawenforcement.com blog, and collaborative research. Previous conferences were held at King's College London (2024) and Utrecht University (2025). The Warsaw conference continues this tradition.

For more information: jmn-eulen.nl | eulawenforcement.com

Involved Projects

Project Regulating Digital Governance in Times of Rule of Law Crisis: Poland as a Case Study of Non-Majoritarian Institutions, financed by the National Science Centre, Poland (Grant No. 2025/57/B/HS5/00559), which investigates how regulatory bodies in Poland – overseeing competition, data protection, electronic communications, and the media – can effectively safeguard democracy and uphold the rule of law while implementing new EU digital regulation.

Project VIPPSTAR, financed by the European Commission under Horizon Europe (Grant No. 101156763), which addresses the development of advanced digital tools and AI for visually impaired children and adolescents, while engaging with the enforcement challenges raised by such technologies, including the proper implementation of the AI Act and the role of regulatory sandboxes in this context.

Project Competition Law Through Constitutional Lenses: Integrating Socio-Economic and Environmental Values in a Time of Just Transition, financed by the National Science Centre, Poland (Grant No. 2023/50/E/HS5/00482, SONATA BIS grant), which aims at explaining the place of values of national constitutions within national competition laws as well as to identify the existing limitations of competition laws vis a vis the necessity of just transition to a carbon-neutral economy.

Contact

For inquiries regarding the conference or this CfP, please contact: cars@uw.edu.pl

We look forward to receiving your contributions and to welcoming you to Warsaw!



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& Regulatory Studies



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