

Luxembourg Presidency Outcome of the Consumer and Competition Day (21/09/2015)

Presentation by Marie-Josée Ries
ECCG meeting

7 October 2015



➤ Agenda and objectives

- Focus on strategic priorities of the DSM
- Bring together officials, business representatives and consumer organisations
- Provide input on the DSM strategy

➤ The programme

- at the crossroads of competition and consumer policy issues addressed by the strategy
- 2 panel discussions
- Several key note speeches

- Opening statement by Deputy prime minister Étienne Schneider
 - The DSM is underperforming
 - Call for the elimination of barriers and the creation of a real *European market place*
- Video message by Commissioner Věra Jourová
 - Europe must be part of the race for the global business
 - Need to merge our 28 national markets into one to get ride of the barriers for crossborder e-com

➤ Pierre Rauchs, President of the LCA

- Competition policy can shed light from a different perspective and draw diverging conclusions like on differentiated pricing

➤ Consumers and EU competition policy, speech by Johannes Laitenberger

- The digital markets change rapidly – this is a challenge for competition enforcers
- The e-commerce inquiry:
 - A preliminary report by the middle of next year.
 - Stakeholders will have a chance to comment it
 - Goal: building a detailed picture of the competitive conditions in the sector and identify barriers

➤ 1st panel: Geoblocking (1)

➤ Topics for debate:

- What should be considered as unjustified geo-blocking?
- Is competition law sufficient to guarantee a high level of market integration?
- By which means should the European Union tackle unjustified geo-blocking?
- Should further enforcement action be taken?

➤ 1st panel: Geoblocking (2)

- Lucilla Sioli, COM: *“Geoblocking runs contrary to the the principles of the internal market”*
- Ursula Pacht, BEUC: *“It is time for a paradigm change, time to adapt the rules, time to provide the benefits of the Single Market to consumers.”*
- Guido Lobrano, BUSINESSEUROPE: *“Geoblocking is the consequence of dysfunctionality in the internal market”*
- Jacques Steenbergen, BCA: *“It is necessary to create clear, simple regulations”*

- 2nd Panel: Platforms as online marketplaces
- Topics for debate
 - What are online platforms – traders, intermediaries...- ?
 - Does the growing sector of C2C commerce need specific regulatory action? Is the information provided to consumers sufficient?
 - Does the e-commerce sector need specific competition rules?

- 2nd Panel: Platforms as online marketplaces
 - Rainer Metz, German Federal Ministry of Justice: *Proper enforcement of existing law is necessary*
 - Siada el Ramly, EDiMA: *“Platforms are subject to major regulatory constraints.”*
 - Despina Spanou, COM: *“It is very important to apply existing law which works well.”*
 - Thierry Dahan, FCA: *C2C does not exist for competition authorities in the legal sense of the term.*

➤ Key-note speeches

- Vicky Ford, MEP: The online market is so diverse that a one-size-fits-all solution covering all players would not be appropriate.
- ➔ Better enforcement, clearer guidelines, more targeted implementation
- François Biltgen, Member of the ECJ: summing up of the discussions and underpinning the general role of the ECJ

➤ Thank you very much for your attention!

