



CMA merger control in Brexit will be work in progress - St Gallen ICF

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Designing an effective merger control system after Brexit will take time, the acting head of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) Andrea Coscelli told the St. Gallen Competition Law Forum on Thursday (27 April).

"There are too many moving parts to imagine we can sit here and design what that system will look like from day one," Coscelli noted.

Merger control is central to the activities of the CMA, which has a history of being pretty active in this domain, the official said. The new situation will certainly entail a degree of "trial and error" and a new set of processes, he predicted.

When the new regime eventually comes into effect the agency will "make sure it works", the official said. The CMA will attempt maximum efficiency through cooperation agreements, and some of these things will take time to iron out. If the agency ends up doing a lot of parallel work with other agencies, for example, "we will realise some parts of our regime are not great", he said.

Post-Brexit regulation will probably require combination of direct involvement in some cases and free-riding in others, depending on where main focus is, Coscelli explained. For example, depending on whether the transaction has a more global or European focus. UK consumers will be the priority, he stressed.

by Simon Van Dorpe in St Gallen



Sector: Other
Topics: Merger Review, Policy Developments

Grade: Confirmed

Agencies

European Commission - Directorate General For Competition (EC - DG Comp)
UK Competition And Markets Authority

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