THE ANALYSIS OF COMPETITION POLICY AND SECTORAL REGULATION

World Scientific–Now Publishers Series in Business

ISSN: 2251-3442

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World Scientific – Now Publishers Series in Business: **Vol. 4**

THE ANALYSIS OF COMPETITION POLICY AND SECTORAL REGULATION

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now

World Scientific

Published by

World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd.

5 Toh Tuck Link, Singapore 596224

USA office: 27 Warren Street, Suite 401-402, Hackensack, NJ 07601

UK office: 57 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9HE

and

now publishers Inc.

PO Box 1024

Hanover, MA 02339

USA

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The analysis of competition policy and sectoral regulation / [edited] by Martin Peitz (Univ of Mannheim, Germany; MaCCI, & CERRE) and Yossi Spiegel (Tel Aviv Univ, Israel; CEPR & ZEW).
pages cm. -- (World Scientific-now publishers series in business, ISSN 2251-3442 ; v. 4)

Conference proceedings.

"This volume contains a selection of papers that were presented at the CRESSE Conferences held in Chania, Crete, from July 6th to 8th, 2012, and in Corfu from July 5th to 7th, 2013."

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-9814616355 (alk. paper)

1. Competition--Congresses. 2. Competition, Unfair--Congresses. 3. Commercial law--
Congresses. I. Peitz, Martin, editor of compilation. II. Spiegel, Yossi, editor of compilation.

HF1414.A6235 2014

338.6'048--dc23

2014014496

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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In-house Editors: Sandhya Venkatesh/Chitralekha Elumalai

Typeset by Stallion Press

Email: enquiries@stallionpress.com

Printed in Singapore

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Introduction

The Competition and Regulation European Summer School and Conference (*CRESSE*) is an informal network of academics and professionals with an interest in Competition Policy and Sectoral Regulation. It was initiated by Yannis Katsoulacos (Athens University of Economics and Business) in 2005. The annual conference organized by *CRESSE* has since grown to become an important event in the competition and regulation conferences calendar. The objective is to provide a forum in which the latest research in the areas of competition and regulation is presented and discussed. Presentations in the three-day annual conference include several invited papers and a selection of papers that were submitted in response to a call for papers in major IO journals and the Conference web site (www.cresse.info). The annual *CRESSE* Conference is organized in early July in Greece; the institution responsible for the organization is the Athens University of Economics and Business.

CRESSE also organizes an annual Summer School in which Visiting Faculty from a number of European and U.S. Universities provide high-quality training to practitioners of competition policy and sectoral regulation that wish to be acquainted with the most recent economic and legal developments. It is also active in disseminating research in the areas of competition policy and regulation and in contributing through the organization of special policy sessions and roundtables that deliver public debates on topical policy issues.

This volume contains some of the papers that were presented at the 2012 *CRESSE* Conferences which was held in Chania, Crete, on July 6–8, 2012, and the 2013 *CRESSE* Conferences which was held in Corfu on

July 5–7, 2013. We are grateful to several colleagues who were generous to help us evaluating the papers for the volume and provided authors with constructive comments and suggestions.

We have grouped the chapters in three parts. Part I contains chapters that examine various aspects of competition. The first three chapters are empirical contributions. Of these, the first two consider price effects of mergers in grocery retailing (Chakraborty *et al.*) and in airlines (Hüschelrath and Müller), while the third (Pesaresi *et al.*) focuses on cost pass-through in the road fuel sector. The other three chapters in Part I of the book are theoretical contributions and they address the effect of innovation on sales and consumer surplus (Balan and Deltas), the effect of demand fluctuations on prices, price-cost margin entry, and capacity utilization (Spiegel and Stahl), and the effect of endogenous seller charges on platform competition (Behringer).

Part II contains chapters on anticompetitive practices. The first two address horizontal practices: cartels (Harrington and Montero) and tacit collusion (Hinloopen and Soetevent). The remaining two chapters address vertical exclusionary practices: Quantity and loyalty discounts (Giardino-Karlinger) and technology transfers (Kourandi *et al.*).

Finally, Part III of the book contains chapters on competition policy and on regulation. The two first chapters elaborate on two key policy issues, health care (Katz) and regulations of CO₂ emissions (Crampes). Both chapters look at these public policy issues from an industrial organization perspective. The other four chapters in Part III of the book study a number of general policy issues, including public policies in innovative industries (Immordino and Polo), the role of legal principle in competition economics (Houba *et al.*), deterrence in competition law (Buccirossi *et al.*), and various problems in the design of public–private partnership contracts (Iossa *et al.*)

The chapters in this volume are at the frontier of empirical or theoretical research on competition issues and they either contain original research, or put recent research into perspective. Each chapter is preceded by a short abstract.

Martin Peitz
Yossi Spiegel
December 2013