ITS Webinar on Digital Policies – an East-West Perspective

Date and time:
Date: 22 November 2021
Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm CET, 8:00 – 9:30am EST, 10:00 – 11:30pm Japan/S-Korea
Format: online only
Academic host: Chalmers University
Corporate host: TELUS

Digital Markets, the role of digital platforms and how to regulate them have become the new frontier for regulators and policy maker around the globe. With this webinar, we aim to take stock of the different developments and different approaches in this sector, for example in the US, Canada, Europe, S- Korea and Japan.

At the end of 2020, the European Commission once again made itself a global regulatory frontrunner, presenting no fewer than three new legal acts to regulate digital markets. With a stated objective to create a safer digital space where fundamental rights of all users of digital services are sufficiently protected, the Single Market changes its mode of market governance from addressing market failures ex-post (as they happen) that are tailored to create the same outcome.

However, the European Commission's proposals are not only being discussed intensively in Europe, but also raise questions of a global dimension in relation to Asia and North America because of the extraterritorial effects of these acts. These include the tension between competition, choice, and consumer protection on the one hand, and innovation, investment incentives and entrepreneurial freedom on the other. This webinar will highlight the most important aspects of this topic.

The three European acts – Digital Governance Act, Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act – builds on the political successes of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the political capital it has unleashed to act against digital-native players. But they depart from the philosophy of GDPR, a horizontal regulation that applies to all societal processes involving personal information, whether they occur online or offline – or by public, private or commercial actors. Instead, the three digital acts are detailed product or activity-specific regulations that only apply to some digital market actors.

With this webinar, ITS will once again fulfill its role as a global platform for industry, policy makers and regulators to create a 360-degree view of an issue from the perspective of different regions and jurisdictions. Policy makers, regulators, industry experts and all interested stakeholders are invited to participate in a free - and highly topical - webinar hosted by the International Telecommunications Society (ITS) that will present the different approaches to digital platform regulation in the U.S., Canada, Europe, South Korea and Japan and discuss how they influence each other.

Program outline:

Opening remarks: Stephen Schmidt,[1] ITS Chairman and Vice-President Telecom Policy & Chief Regulatory Legal Counsel at TELUS Communications.
Moderator: Georg Serentschy (Serentschy Advisory Services GmbH and ITS Corporate Board Member)[2]
Academic Host: Professor Erik Bohlin (Chalmers University).[3]

Speakers:

- Representative from EU: **Alexandre de Streel,**[4] Academic Co-Director CERRE and Professor Namur University
- Representative from South Korea: **Seongcheol KIM,**[5] Director & Professor School of Media and Communication, Korea University, Seoul
- Representative from Japan: **Kuniko OGAWA**,[6] Director Second Telecommunications Consumer Policy Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Tokyo
- **Michael H. Ryan**,[7] Principal at MHRyan Law (London) will provide practical insights on how digital policies compare between North America and Europe.

Format: Online discussion with 15 minutes per speaker, followed by Q&A. Total 90 minutes.

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Relevant literature from a European perspective provided by Alexandre de Streel as a background information:
A new paper on the EU Digital Markets Act (DMA) is now online at The European Digital Markets Act: A Revolution Grounded on Traditions by Alexandre de Streel, Pierre Larouche :: SSRN
Two recent papers on the DMA are on SSRN: The European Digital Markets Act Proposal: How to Improve a Regulatory Revolution by Alexandre de Streel, Pierre Larouche :: SSRN
and Will the Digital Markets Act Kill Innovation in Europe? by Pierre Larouche, Alexandre de Streel :: SSRN

[1] https://www.itsworld.org/officers/
[2] https://www.serentschy.com/
[3] https://www.chalmers.se/en/staff/Pages/erik-bohlin.aspx
[4] https://www.itsworld.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Alexandre-de-Streel-Bio.pdf
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