

Press release

15 March 2017

The Implications of Brexit for UK Competition Law: Practical Issues & Priorities

The City of London Law Society Competition Law Committee has today published its paper on the implications of Brexit for competition law and policy in the UK which identifies priorities for action by the UK Government. The paper was prepared to assist the UK Government in its forthcoming negotiations concerning the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union.

The City of London Law Society ("CLLS") represents approximately 17,000 City lawyers through individual and corporate membership, including some of the largest international law firms in the world. These law firms advise a variety of clients from multinational companies and financial institutions to Government departments, often in relation to complex, multi-jurisdictional legal issues. The CLLS responds to a variety of consultations and topics of importance to its members through its 19 specialist committees of which the Competition Law Committee is one.

The Committee's report identifies issues in each of the fields of merger control, the enforcement of competition law by the competition authorities and private litigation which:-

-**need** to be addressed as a priority as part of the Article 50 negotiations about the terms on which the UK will leave the EU including transitional arrangements.

-**concern** the longer term post Brexit interaction between the EU and UK competition regimes,

-**propose** the steps the UK might wish to take as regards the reform of domestic competition law and policy;

- **should** be considered in the Great Repeal Bill.

Dr Nigel Parr, Partner and Global Chair of the Competition Practice at Ashurst, who led the Committee's Brexit Working Group which authored the report, commented, "*Few would disagree that competition law and policy has been one of the success stories of the EU over the last 20 years. It is founded upon a series of efficient and effective relationships between the EU and national competition authorities. Brexit clearly poses challenges, but with careful thought and goodwill on both sides, we believe that it is possible to preserve many of the benefits to UK consumers and businesses that this cooperation has delivered.*"

Robert Bell Partner and Head of EU & UK Competition Practice at Bryan Cave and Chairman of the CLLS Competition Law Committee added

“After Brexit it is important that we maintain an effective competition regime in the UK. This needs to protect the interests of UK consumers as well as maximising legal certainty for the Business Community. At the same time we need to create an environment which makes the UK an attractive place to do business and drives investment and growth in our economy.

The CLLS is grateful for this opportunity to put its views and concerns to Government over the effect Brexit will have on UK competition policy and we hope this report will be a welcome contribution to the debate.”

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Notes to editors:

1. A copy of the paper on the implications of Brexit for competition law and policy in the UK can be accessed here: <http://bit.ly/2mjUIEM>
2. Other recent consultation responses can be found on the [CLLS website](#) and [Twitter](#).
3. For further information, please contact Gemma Watts at Project Associates on 020 7321 0773 or CLLS_PA@projectassociatesltd.com