

23rd International Conference on Competition

11 – 13 March 2026



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#ikk2026



Wednesday, 11 March 2026

(Stand: 18.12.2025)

IKK 2026 Programm_Entwurf_6.3.docx

Steigenberger Hotel am Kanzleramt, Berlin
from 16:00 *Registration*

Evening programme

19:00 *Reception and buffet dinner, Restaurant Nolle, Berlin*

Thursday, 12 March 2026 – morning

Steigenberger Hotel am Kanzleramt, Berlin
from 08:00 *Registration*

23rd International Conference on Competition

09:00	<i>Opening</i>	Andreas Mundt , President, Bundeskartellamt, Bonn
09:10	<i>Speech</i>	Katherina Reiche , Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Berlin
	<i>Q&A</i>	Andreas Mundt , President, Bundeskartellamt, Bonn
09:40	<i>Speech</i>	Teresa Ribera , Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, European Commission, Brussels
	<i>Q&A</i>	Natalie Harsdorf , Director General, Bundeswettbewerbsbehörde, Vienna
10:10	<i>Speech</i>	Speech
10:40	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:10	<i>Speech</i>	René Obermann , Chairman of Airbus SE and Warburg Pincus Europe, Deputy Chairman of IONOS Group SE, Berlin
	<i>Q&A</i>	Andreas Mundt , President, Bundeskartellamt, Bonn
11:40	Panel I:	Competition law meets geopolitics – balancing open markets and trade with industrial policy and resilience
	<i>Panellists</i>	Veronika Grimm , Member of the German Council of Economic Experts and Professor of Energy Systems and Market Design, Technical University of Nuremberg, Nuremberg Linsey McCallum , Acting Director-General and Deputy Director-General for Antitrust, European Commission, Brussels Doris Tshepe , Commissioner, Competition Commission South Africa, Pretoria
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Geopolitical shifts are reshaping the competitive landscape. As economic power, access to critical resources, and control over essential infrastructure are increasingly being used as instruments of political influence, approaches to global competition are drifting apart. In light of the growing importance of industrial policy tools, competition authorities must find ways to safeguard fair competition in markets that are increasingly shaped by political interests.</i>
12:40	<i>Lunch</i>	

Thursday, 12 March 2026 – afternoon

14:00 *Speech* **Timotheus Höttges**, CEO, Deutsche Telekom AG, Bonn

14:30 **Panel II: Navigating AI – driver of innovation or threat to open competition?**

Moderator **Ariel Ezrachi**, Slaughter and May Professor of Competition Law, Oxford University, Oxford

Panellists **Oliver Bethell**, Head of Competition, Regulatory Engagement and Advisory, Google, London
Rolf Schumann, Co-CEO, Schwarz Digits, Neckarsulm
Fiona Scott Morton, Professor of Economics at Yale University, Senior Fellow at Bruegel, Senior Consultant to Charles River Associates, New Haven
Udbhav Tiwari, Vice-President, Strategy and Global Affairs, Signal Foundation, Berlin

Discussion *The growing use of AI raises new questions regarding competition and innovation. Will it open markets to new entrants or strengthen the dominance of established players? Dependence on critical infrastructure adds complexity, and the impact of AI on society – such as its effect on information filtering and media diversity – must be dealt with. How should competition authorities adjust their role in a world increasingly shaped by AI-assisted decision making?*

15:30 *Coffee break*

16:00 **Panel III: Competition and regulation – opposing forces or shared objectives?**

Moderator **Martijn Snoep**, Chairman, Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets, The Hague

Panellists **Cani Fernández**, President, Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission, Madrid
Justus Haucap, Professor of Economics and Director of the Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics, Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf

Discussion *Balancing competition and regulation is becoming increasingly complex, especially when it comes to essential products and services or critical infrastructure. Economic pressure, technological change and political objectives make it difficult to draw the line between measures that protect and those that distort competition. When does regulation safeguard the public interest and when does it hinder market entry or favour incumbents? And how can competition authorities have a stronger voice in policymaking to prevent overregulation and ensure that markets remain open?*

Evening programme

19:00 *Reception and dinner, Axica, Berlin*

Friday, 13 March 2026 – morning

09:00	Speech	Stephan Harbarth , President, Federal Constitutional Court, Karlsruhe
	Q&A	Konrad Ost , Vice-President, Bundeskartellamt, Bonn
09:30	Panel IV: Independence under pressure – rule of law and the limits of administrative autonomy	
	Moderator	Eleanor M. Fox , Professor Emerita, New York University School of Law, New York
	Panellists	Benoît Cœuré , President, Autorité de la concurrence, Paris William Kovacic , Professor of Law, George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C. Mario Monti , Senator of the Italian Republic, Rome Andreas Schwab , Member of the European Parliament, Brussels
	Discussion	<i>How independent can state institutions in modern democracies truly be? Competition authorities may experience tensions between formal autonomy and practical constraints, ranging from budgets or appointments to political pressures. The extent of independence may vary, and the degree of autonomy can impact enforcement. How can the need for autonomy be balanced with the need for accountability, especially in times of crisis?</i>
10:30	Coffee break	
11:00	Panel V: Mergers – from market leaders to market shapers: innovation vs. foreclosure	
	Moderator	Ingrid Vandenborre , Partner, Antitrust & Competition, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Brussels
	Panellists	Ingo Brinker , Partner, White & Case LLP, Chairman of the Association for the Study of Antitrust Law, Düsseldorf Eiji Chatani , Chair, Japan Fair Trade Commission, Tokyo James Keyte , Partner, Boies Schiller Flexner LLP, New York Tommaso Valletti , Professor of Economics, Imperial College Business School, London
	Discussion	<i>Merger assessment often sits at the crossroads of innovation and foreclosure. After years of global convergence towards stricter rules, a shift in thinking is emerging: Should merger control continue to focus on preventing overly powerful market positions and harm to consumers or should it allow more room for broader industrial and political objectives? As debates on European champions and new guidelines unfold, competition authorities are faced with the ongoing challenge of showing how competition can drive innovation and growth.</i>
12:00	Power Talk: Competition in the age of total connectivity	
	Moderator	Cristina Caffarra , Economic Expert, CEPR Competition Research Policy Network and University College, London
	Panellists	Barry C. Lynn , Executive Director, Open Markets Institute, Washington, D.C. Rupprecht Podszun , Member of the Monopolies Commission, Professor of Law, Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf
	Discussion	<i>The increasing use of connected devices, ranging from smart homes to industrial systems, creates new competition challenges. Closed platform alliances and device-driven decision-making processes carry the risk of creating lock-in effects and entry barriers. Data ownership, access and portability become central areas of competition concern. How can competition authorities address these risks while balancing privacy, digital rights and regulatory frameworks?</i>
12:30	Closing	Andreas Mundt , President, Bundeskartellamt, Bonn

Conference hotel

Steigenberger Hotel am Kanzleramt

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Evening programme on 11 March 2026

Restaurant Nolle

Georgenstraße/S-Bahn-Bogen 203
10117 Berlin
Phone: +49 30 208 26 45
www.restaurant-nolle.de

Evening programme on 12 March 2026

Axica

Kongress- und Tagungszentrum
Pariser Platz 3
10117 Berlin
Tel: +49 30 200086 0
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Please note:

Participation is by personal invitation only.

As the number of conference participants is limited, we recommend that you register *as early as possible* at www.ikk2026.de

For more information please contact

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