

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	Opening	Andreas Mundt, President, Bundeskartellamt, Bonn
09:10	Speech	Katherina Reiche, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Berlin
	Q&A	Andreas Mundt, President, Bundeskartellamt, Bonn
09:40	Speech	Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, European Commission, Brussels
	Q&A	Natalie Harsdorf, Director General, Bundeswettbewerbsbehörde, Vienna
10:10	Speech	Speech
10:40	Coffee break	
11:10	Speech	René Obermann, Chairman of Airbus SE and Warburg Pincus Europe, Deputy Chairman of IONOS Group SE, Berlin
	Q&A	Andreas Mundt, President, Bundeskartellamt, Bonn
11:40	Panel I:	Competition law meets geopolitics – balancing open markets and trade with industrial policy and resilience
	Panellists	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
	Discussion	<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	Lunch	

Thursday, 12 March 2026 – afternoon

14:00	<i>Speech</i>	Timotheus Höttges , CEO, Deutsche Telekom AG, Bonn
14:30	Panel II: Navigating AI – driver of innovation or threat to open competition?	
	<i>Moderator</i>	Ariel Ezrachi , Slaughter and May Professor of Competition Law, Oxford University, Oxford
	<i>Panellists</i>	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
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>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?</i>
<hr/> 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
<hr/> 16:00	Panel III: Competition and regulation – opposing forces or shared objectives?	
	<i>Moderator</i>	Martijn Snoep , Chairman, Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets, The Hague
	<i>Panellists</i>	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
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>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?</i>
<hr/> Evening programme		
19:00	<i>Reception and dinner, Axica, Berlin</i>	

Friday, 13 March 2026 – morning

09:00	<i>Speech</i>	Stephan Harbarth , President, Federal Constitutional Court, Karlsruhe
	<i>Q&A</i>	Konrad Ost , Vice-President, Bundeskartellamt, Bonn
09:30	Panel IV: Independence under pressure – rule of law and the limits of administrative autonomy	
	<i>Moderator</i>	Eleanor M. Fox , Professor Emerita, New York University School of Law, New York
	<i>Panellists</i>	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
	<i>Discussion</i>	<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	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00	Panel V: Mergers – from market leaders to market shapers: innovation vs. foreclosure	
	<i>Moderator</i>	Ingrid Vandenborre , Partner, Antitrust & Competition, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Brussels
	<i>Panellists</i>	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
	<i>Discussion</i>	<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	
	<i>Moderator</i>	Cristina Caffarra , Economic Expert, CEPR Competition Research Policy Network and University College, London
	<i>Panellists</i>	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
	<i>Discussion</i>	<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	<i>Closing</i>	Andreas Mundt , President, Bundeskartellamt, Bonn

Conference hotel

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Evening programme on 11 March 2026

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www.restaurant-nolle.de

Evening programme on 12 March 2026

Axica

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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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