

Christopher Thomas

Office Managing Partner

Brussels

Biography

For the last 20 years or so, Christopher Thomas has been helping clients caught up in European Commission investigations of alleged cartels and abuse of dominance, and successfully navigating the EU and national merger control process. These days, defending clients' interests also means coordinating competition law investigations across Europe and globally, which is what Christopher does in close cooperation with his colleagues in Washington, D.C., Beijing and elsewhere. Christopher also appears regularly as an advocate before the General Court and the Court of Justice of the EU.

Christopher is a member of the global steering committee of our Antitrust, Competition and Economic Regulation practice. This is a responsibility that keeps him in close touch with our antitrust practice across the world. He is also a very regular visitor to Japan and other Asian countries, where he works closely with patent, corporate and antitrust colleagues.

Unsurprisingly, Christopher's work has involved a wide variety of industries, such as air cargo, beverage alcohol, consumer electronics, electronic components, financial services, freight-forwarding, logistics, maritime transport, medical devices, metal production plants, metal trading, mobile devices, motor vehicles, paper, pharmaceuticals, railway services, software, thermal



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Languages

English
French

Practices

Antitrust and Competition

Areas of focus

Antitrust and Competition Litigation

Merger Control

Abuse of Dominance and Restrictive Practices

Competition Compliance

Cartel Investigations

power generation, telecoms services and wind turbines.

That said, Christopher has particular experience of the antitrust issues affecting industries in which technology and intellectual property are critical. He has been closely involved in many of the leading cases in this area, whether relating to interoperability, the enforcement of standard essential patents, patent ambush, geo-blocking, performing rights licensing, online search, platforms, anti-piracy TPMs or any number of other issues.

Representative experience

Securing global antitrust merger approvals for the creation of Primetals Technologies, integrating the metal production plant building businesses of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Siemens.

Defending a Japanese electronic component manufacturer in an EU cartel investigation, coordinated in the context of investigations and civil actions across the world.

Advising implementers of standards such as GPRS, EDGE, UMTS, HSPA, LTE, AMR-WB, H.264, HEVC, xDSL and WiFi on licence negotiations and litigation across Europe.

Acting for a leading supercomputer manufacturer in the EU investigation of Rambus for alleged patent ambush of SDRAM standards.

Awards and rankings

- Competition: EU and Global, Belgium, Recommended, *Legal 500 EMEA*, 2019-2020
- Competition/European Law (Belgium), *Chambers Global*, 2018-2020
- Competition: EU and Global, *Legal 500 EMEA*, 2018-2019

Leniency Applications

Dawn Raids

Agency Investigations

Education and admissions

Education

LL.M., College of Europe, 1993

M.A., University of Cambridge, 1989

Bar admissions and qualifications

Solicitor, England and Wales

Brussels

Accolades

"Sources regard him as someone with 'a deep appreciation of the Commission, its procedures and likely responses, who provides a balanced view of the situation.'"

Chambers Global 2018

Latest thinking and events

- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - EU merger control in times of COVID-19
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - In the world of COVID-19, companies must not quarantine competition law compliance
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - Antitrust, Competition, and Economic Regulation Quarterly Newsletter - Autumn 2019
- Webinar
 - The life cycle of cartel investigations Part 1: The European Commission's investigation
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - The BeNeLux competition authorities issue a Joint Memorandum on competition in a digital world
- News
 - TMT Horizons 2019