



15 October 2026

EDPB-EC Stakeholder Event:

GDPR & Competition Law

Overview of Key Topics

- **Topic 1: interplay between data protection and competition policy objectives**

- Data protection law and competition law each pursue distinct objectives and employ different analytical frameworks to achieve them. How do these distinct objectives manifest themselves in your organisation's day-to-day practice?
- Which potential convergences and/or conflicts do you see when competition and data protection interact?
- What areas of interplay between competition and data protection should guidelines cover? Do you have concrete examples of challenges you are facing and for which further guidance would be needed?
- What are the key considerations to bear in mind to ensure legal certainty?

- **Topic 2: data protection in competition assessment**

- In which type of competition assessment could data protection be considered? (e.g., merger control, vertical agreements, abuses of dominant position)
- How can data protection have an impact on a competition law analysis?
- Which data protection provisions could be especially relevant in the context of a competition law assessment?
- Have you encountered concrete scenarios in which data protection considerations played a role in the substantive assessment/design of remedies in competition proceedings – for example in merger control or abuse of dominance cases? What practical effects did the incorporation of data protection considerations in those proceedings have on your business models or compliance processes? Are there any insights or lessons learnt from practice that you consider may be useful to take into account in future guidance?
- In the context of a competition law assessment, have you noticed any practical incompatibilities, overlaps, or conflicts stemming from the simultaneous application of competition and data protection frameworks? How could these difficulties be resolved?

- **Topic 3: competition in data protection assessment**

- What impact might competition related elements have on the analysis?
- In relation to which data protection requirements should competition related elements be considered? (e.g., compliance with Article 5 GDPR principles, freely given consent, legitimate interest assessments, attribution of controller/processor roles and responsibilities)
- Have you encountered concrete scenarios in which competition law considerations – such as the market position of a controller, the absence of realistic switching alternatives for users, or data accumulation strategies by dominant undertakings – played a role in data protection proceedings or compliance assessments?
- In the context of a data protection assessment, have you noticed any practical incompatibilities, overlaps, or conflicts stemming from the simultaneous application of competition and data protection frameworks? How could these difficulties be resolved?

- **Topic 4: Cooperation**

- In your view, what impact does cooperation between data protection authorities and competition authorities have on individuals and economic operators? Have you observed specific benefits or drawbacks in terms of rights protection, market outcomes, compliance costs, or regulatory predictability? Please provide examples.
- What kind of exchange between authorities and under what conditions would you find most beneficial for an effective cooperation? And why?