Global Competition Law

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February 25th – March 1nd 2019 11am – 13pm

(Duration: 10 hours)

Course summary: As markets have become increasingly global so has Competition Law. This course will address the following topics in a cross-jurisdictional perspective, focusing on US and EU antitrust law: 1. The Foundations of Competition Law; 2. Collusion and horizontal agreements; 3. Vertical agreements; 4. Abuses of dominant position; 5. Mergers and Joint Ventures; 6. Extraterritorial application of competition law.

Course objectives:

- To lead students to understand the legal and economic concepts that underpin competition law in action in global markets, in a dynamic and critical perspective that allows future study of these subjects;

- To develop the ability to apply competition rules to real cases and to envisage how to solve problems from the different practical perspectives (undertakings injured by restrictive practices, undertakings facing an investigation; competition authorities; regulatory bodies called upon to give opinions on the application of competition law; courts).

- To have a better understanding of how the content of competition rules is influenced by the institutional setting and by law & economics scholarship.

Methodology: The course combines lectures with the discussion of selected cases and decisions from the US and the EU, as well as from other jurisdictions. The case method will be used as an illustration of how the central issues of competition law are addressed in different institutional settings, particularly the US and EU models. An interdisciplinary Law & Economics perspective will be used as a tool to understand how different legal cultures address the same types of competition restraints and establish a benchmark to appraise the effectiveness of those legal and institutional regimes.

Grading: Students will be required to read cases before class (approximately 30 pages reading per class). Grading will be based on class participation and a short paper, of between 3500 and 5000 words, on one of the topics addressed in the course. The paper is due two weeks after the last class.

Course materials and required reading: these will be made available on the Moodle platform (https://elearning.ulisboa.pt/) from February 11th. Students will be required to read the materials in advance and to prepare each class, including case discussions.