

Call for Contributions - CCP 16th Annual Conference

Vertical Restraints: Updating for the Digital Dimension

9 - 10 July 2020
London



UEA University of
East Anglia

Scope and objectives

This year's conference welcomes submissions of recent research contributions to the conference topics whether theoretical, legal, empirical or policy-oriented. It is intended to foster exchanges between professional and academic researchers, continuing the CCP tradition of conferences focused around timely policy questions. A balanced perspective will be sought, in line with the CCP position of academic neutrality.

While many of the presentations at CCP conferences are based on direct invitation, we guarantee that at least five places, and possibly more, would be filled exclusively based on responses to this call, and encourage researchers at all levels to consider responding.

Main topics

The assessment of vertical agreements has always been a complex area within competition policy. They can be anti-competitive but they can also have strong positive benefits, and authorities therefore need to strike a careful balance. The rapid growth of the digital economy, and especially the development of large online platforms, raises major new challenges for this assessment.

We welcome contributions on any area of this important and topical area. We have a particular interest in any research relating to:

1. the following categories of vertical agreement:
 - keyword-bidding agreements
 - non-resolicitation clauses
 - advertised price restrictions and
 - data-sharing requirements
 - retail price most favoured nation (MFN) clauses
 - geographic exclusivity
2. topics specifically associated with digital platforms such as:
 - vertical restraints in the presence of network effects
 - vertical restraints and digital ecosystems

- delegation of pricing decisions to third-party platforms
- ambiguity around whether firms are 'upstream' or 'downstream', and whether platforms are 'pure agencies' or mixed function.

The conference will provide a valuable insight into this panoply of issues, and related ones, from a variety of academic and policy-making perspectives. It will do so at a crucial time, given the impending review of the EU vertical agreements block exemption regulation and guidelines.

Submission of abstracts or papers

Abstracts or papers should be submitted by 21 February 2020.

To submit your abstract or paper, [click here](#).

Notification of acceptance will be provided by 28 February 2020.

Conference

For conference organisation matters, please contact Thomas Cushman at ccp@uea.ac.uk.

For any further information, including for sponsorship opportunities, please send an email to ccp@uea.ac.uk.