

The 2019 Transatlantic Summit Competition in the Digital Age Facing the Digital Challenge Together

On the eve of “*Shaping Competition Policy in the Era of Digitisation*,” a European Commission-led conference on modernizing competition rules, two leading global think tanks – **Progressive Policy Institute** in Washington DC and **The Lisbon Council** in Brussels – join forces to convene **The 2019 Transatlantic Summit: Competition in the Digital Age**, a deep dive into the cross-border dimension of competition policy in an era where everything local is global and everything global is local. The summit will take place in Brussels.

Animated by expert presentations, industry interventions and high-level debate, participants will explore the challenge and opportunity of better transatlantic cooperation in the age of the Internet, aiming to forge closer views of emerging common problems and explore the economic advantage of regulatory convergence between the world’s leading democracies in an era where electronic commerce knows few borders. The conclusions will feed directly into the European Commission’s *Shaping Competition Policy in the Era of Digitisation* conference, which convenes the following day.

Wednesday, 16 January 2019

Résidence Palace, International Press Centre
155 Rue de la Loi, Brussels, Belgium
13h00-17h00

VIP PROGRAMME:

12h30-13h00 Welcoming Coffee and Registration

13h00-14h30 High-Level Working Lunch (Invitation Only)
A View from the Inside: The Challenges Ahead
Director of Economics Fabien Curto Millet kicks off a wide-ranging debate on the challenge of competition policy in the digital era.

Special Guest:

- **Fabien Curto Millet**, director of economics, Google

15h00-15h45

Opening Plenary

Adapting Competition Policy to the Digital Age

Michael Mandel kicks off this interactive session with new research on “competition and concentration,” a paper which looks at the unique role of the technology/telecommunications sector in the economy. Leading experts respond with new thinking on the challenge ahead for European and global regulators

Special Presentation:

- **Michael Mandel**, chief economic strategist, Progressive Policy Institute; principal author, *Competition and Concentration: How the Tech/Telecom/Ecommerce Sector is Outperforming the Rest of the Private Sector*

High-Level Speakers:

- **Adina Claici**, director, Copenhagen Economics
- **Nicolas Petit**, professor, school of law, University of Liege; co-director, Brussels School of Competition

Moderator:

- **Paul Hofheinz**, president and co-founder, the Lisbon Council

15h45-17h00

Closing Plenary

The Role of Platforms: Towards Transatlantic Consensus

Competition policy has one thing in common on both sides of the Atlantic. It is premised on making sure consumers are not harmed by undue power or market concentration. Is that still the case? Some say European efforts have over-reached the mark – turning a policy intended to protect European consumers into one that primarily strengthens weak domestic players. But others argue that the platforms play a vital role at the heart of the modern European economy, creating markets and common sets of rules across borders so creators, sellers and buyers can meet. Who is right? And how can we find consensus given the immense stake the world’s democracies have in a healthy, Internet-drive economy?

High-Level Speakers:

- **Aleksandra Boutin**, founding partner, Positive Competition
 - **Fabien Curto Millet**, director of economics, Google
 - **Kai-Uwe Kühn**, professor of economics and deputy director of the centre for competition policy, University of East Anglia; former chief economist, directorate general for competition, European Commission
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17h00-18h00

Cocktail Reception