

## 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 power generation, telecoms services and wind turbines.

That said, Christopher has particular experience of the



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### Languages

English  
French

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### Practices

Antitrust and Competition

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### Areas of focus

Antitrust and Competition Litigation

Merger Control

Abuse of Dominance and Restrictive Practices

Competition Compliance

Cartel Investigations

Leniency Applications

Dawn Raids

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

## Latest thinking and events

- News
  - National Security and Investment Act: Nearly time for curtains up
- News

Agency Investigations

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## Education and admissions

### Education

LL.M., College of Europe, 1993

M.A., University of Cambridge, 1989

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### Bar admissions and qualifications

Brussels

Solicitor, England and Wales

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- Gun-jumping: The EU General Court calls the shots
- Press Releases
  - Hogan Lovells hires competition litigator Michel Struys to Brussels office
- Webinar
  - What you need to know about spare parts in the automotive industry
- News
  - 'A sign of the fines' – CMA imposes record fine for breaches of IEO
- News
  - Proposed UK competition law reforms – 'he ain't heavy, he's my micro-economic sibling'