

## **Abstract**

### **Single Continuous Infringement in the Competition Law of the European Union.**

The content of the thesis is to identify the individual features that characterise a single continuous infringement, as well as to identify the traces of the development of the single continuous infringement in EU competition law. Due to the absence of the anchoring of the concept of the single continuous infringement in a primary EU law, base for this thesis needs to be in the decision-making practice of the Court of Justice of the European Union, and the Commission as the main basis for the present thesis.

The introductory chapter of this thesis focuses on the development of the concept of the single continuous infringement. It should be borne in mind that, although the concept of the single continuous infringement is known in other legal systems, there are individual differences between them, which are due to the different conceptions of competition law in different countries. The CJEU can be regarded as the reference body which, through its decisions, has given the concept of single continuing infringement its current form as applied by the Commission.

The aim of this thesis is to identify and analyze the individual features of the single continuous infringement and then to reflect these features in the decision-making practice of the EU institutions in order to establish how the decision-making practice has evolved within the concept of the single continuous infringement. At the same time, to determine whether the Commission, in its current decision-making, has been placed under greater evidentiary requirements to prove whether an undertaking has committed the single continuous infringement. The final part of this paper address the implications for the Commission if the CJEU annuls its decision that an undertaking has committed the single continuous infringement of the competition rules.

This thesis enables to those familiar with EU competition law to obtain a closer understanding of single continuous infringement, as well as its application practice by the Commission and the CJEU. Finally and above all, the thesis is able to serve as an aid to undertakings in determining whether their conduct on the market can be considered as infringing competition law rules in the form of a single continuous infringement. In particular, taking into account whether their conduct fulfils the individual elements of the single continuous infringement as established by the application practice. The thesis also focuses on the various problematic aspects of the application of the single continuous infringement, thereby pointing to those areas of the concept that need to be clarified or refined by the application practice.

### **Key words**

single continuous infringement, European Court of Justice, European Commission, competition law, agreements restricting competition