

# **Abstract**

## **Forms of abuse of dominance in the area of the Internet platforms**

The thesis is dedicated to the topic of abuse of dominant position in the area of the Internet platforms. Its aim is, firstly, to outline the challenges arising from the specific nature of the area, which might, from the competition-authorities' point of view, complicate the enforcement of competition law in the case of abuse of dominance. Secondly, the thesis tries to find the answer on the question to what extent these problems have been reflected in the existing decision-making practice.

The structure of the thesis is divided into four main parts. The first part is an introduction. The second part provides an essential introduction to the area in question. It defines the term "Internet platform", provides an overview of the most important types of the Internet platforms and describes the specifics of the area in question, whose description is essential for the following parts.

The third part analyses the problems that competition law may face in the context of possible abuse of dominance within the meaning of Art. 102 TFEU in the area of the Internet platforms. This section is divided according to three basic steps of a competition analysis of abuse of dominance, i.e. definition of the relevant market, the determination of market power and determination of the distortion of competition in the form of abuse of dominance. In the chapter on the distortion of competition, the discussed issue is demonstrated on concrete potential forms of abuse of dominance.

The fourth part analyses the existing decision-making practice and tries to find the answers on the issues discussed in the second part. The subject of the analysis are primarily the previous merger decisions regarding the Internet and communication companies or large technological enterprises; for the comparison purposes also decisions from the standard „off-line“ markets were analysed.

The conclusion contains a summary of the analysis results and provides critical evaluation of the prior art.