UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

Externalizing EU Competition Policy: Implementation and Coordination Realities in Non-EU Countries and Global Forums

B.A.M. Bender

This dissertation is about competition policy as an example of external EU governance. Competition policy has traditionally played a key role in European integration and is arguably one of the EU's strongest assets. More recently, EU competition policy has also become a main point of reference for regulatory competition regimes worldwide. What are the characteristics that make it so successful beyond membership?

The research looks at the governance of competition policy within the EU and then assesses the EU's influence on competition policy in Norway and Turkey and on the OECD and the International Competition Network. It argues that a certain degree of internal diversity, rather than full harmonization at EU level, has a positive effect on the externalization of competition policy to non-EU countries and global forums.

These case studies are relevant in the context of Brexit and other forms of alignment with EU policy in the absence of an immediate membership perspective, as currently seems to be the case for the Western Balkans. It also provides insights in how the EU participates in global expert networks, and how it externalises its own regulatory frameworks in these contexts.