



Christian Duvernoy

RETIRED PARTNER

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Christian Duvernoy had been based in the firm's Brussels office since 1990, where he once served as partner-in-charge. His practice focused on the application of EU competition law and regulation in a diverse range of sectors, including IT/IP, financial services and manufacturing industries. Mr. Duvernoy represented clients before the European Commission in merger clearance proceedings and antitrust investigations, both into alleged collusion among competitors and the conduct of dominant firms, often involving IP-related issues. He also advised more generally on EU market access issues, including product standards and industry-specific regulatory requirements.

Mr. Duvernoy was involved both in clearance and in opposition proceedings concerning a number of significant communications and information technology mergers (Oracle/PeopleSoft; Telia/Sonera; PPC/Wind; MCI/WorldCom and WorldCom/Sprint; and Vodafone AirTouch/Mannesmann). He advised on all aspects of competition law, including cartel investigations and conduct restrictions faced by dominant firms, as well as in state aid proceedings. Mr. Duvernoy led the team that represented Red Hat in the EU's antitrust investigation of Microsoft; defended auto parts suppliers and a leading investment bank in cartel investigations; and represented information technology companies in a broad variety of proceedings, including FRAND disputes.

Mr. Duvernoy's market access practice often raised complex regulatory and legislative issues concerning EU health, safety and product standards. It included advising clients on the regulatory aspects of e-commerce services, such as EU data protection requirements, online selling and marketing rules and consumer protection issues. In EU legislative proceedings, Mr. Duvernoy worked with clients to establish a persuasive evidence-based record in support of their positions.

From 1988-1989, Mr. Duvernoy was an intern with the European Court of Justice (Cabinets of Judge Thomas O'Higgins and Advocate General Sir Gordon Slynn) and the Legal Service of the European Commission (Competition Team).

Experience

In his career, Mr. Duvernoy was involved in a number of in-depth merger review proceedings, including representing Oracle Corporation in obtaining EU clearance of its unsolicited bid for PeopleSoft. He obtained a Phase I clearance of a significant acquisition in the pulp sector. Mr. Duvernoy successfully defended a leading auto parts supplier in one of the first settlements of a cartel investigation by the European Commission. In an internal investigation concerning tax structuring, Mr. Duvernoy conducted an in-depth analysis of the client's potential exposure under EU state aid rules. He also obtained the dismissal of antitrust charges against a top-tier investment bank in the EU's long-running investigation into credit default swap markets. On behalf of a leading manufacturer of medical devices, Mr. Duvernoy led the team that successfully prevented adoption of restrictive product standards in the EU that would have forced a device off the market on inadequate scientific grounds.

Recognition

- Listed as a leader in competition/European law in the 2006-2020 editions of *Chambers Global: The World's Leading Lawyers*
- Recognized as a leader in competition/European law in Belgium in multiple editions of *Chambers Europe* since 2008. Also recognized as a leader in antitrust and competition law in the 2007 inaugural edition, and in technology, media & telecommunications law in the 2011 edition.
- Listed in the Legal Media Group's *Guide to the World's Leading Technology, Media & Telecommunications Lawyers* in 2003, 2005 and 2011, and in the *Guide to the World's Leading Competition and Antitrust Lawyers/Economists* in 2011
- Recognized as one of the *Best Lawyers in Belgium* in the 2012-2014 editions, in the area of Competition/Antitrust Law
- Recognized as a leader in regulatory communications law in multiple editions of *Who's Who Legal: The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers*, and listed in the 2015 and 2016 editions of *Who's Who Legal: Telecommunications Media & Technology*, and the 2015 edition of *Who's Who Legal, The International Who's Who of Competition Lawyers and Economists*
- DAAD Fellow (German Fulbright), Free University of Berlin, 1984-85

Credentials

EDUCATION

JD, University of Michigan Law School, 1988

magna cum laude

Order of the Coif

AB, Harvard University, 1984

magna cum laude

ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

New York

Brussels (associate member)

LANGUAGES

English

French

German