

## **International Competition Law Enforcement: general approach**

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**Research Methodology.** As was recently demonstrated by the European Commission (Commission) case-law practice, the Commission deals with cases that go beyond the territorial scope of the European Union (EU), necessitating cooperation with the competition authorities of third countries. This article, with application of systematic and comparative methods, looks at the diversification of legal instruments used for this bilateral competition law enforcement cooperation.

**Results.** This paper addresses one of the intricacies of international competition law enforcement, namely the diversification of legal instruments used for bilateral cooperation. The argument put forward in this paper is that a parallel can be drawn between the internal and external functions of competition law. As competition law is not a goal as such within the EU, but in general serves the optimal functioning of the Single Market, the function of international cooperation on competition law matters is not solely to be found in competition considerations, but serves other goals as well. Therefore, the fact that a number of different objectives are pursued may explain the use of several distinct instruments for cooperation on competition law issues.

**Novelty.** The article researches the general trends in International Competition Law Enforcement. The main attention was paid to the comparative characteristic of bilateral, regional (the European Union) and international levels of the competition relations regulation.

**Practical significance.** The main focus of the article is on the bilateral cooperation. The multilateral track is touched upon, but initiatives such as the OECD Competition Committee and Global Forum on Competition, the International Competition Network (ICN), UNCTAD or the attempts to include competition matters in the WTO, is not dealt with. The results of research could be use in deeper study of such courses as international economic law, international public law and the European Union law. Also the researched topic needs to be developed in further scientific works.