

## Christopher Thomas

Office Managing Partner  
Brussels

### Biography

Christopher Thomas assists clients in investigations of alleged cartels and abuse of dominance, and in merger control procedures, in the European Union and around the world. This includes coordinating the defence of competition law investigations across Europe and globally. Christopher also appears regularly as an advocate before the General Court and the Court of Justice of the EU.

Christopher is a member of the global steering committee of our Antitrust, Competition and Economic Regulation practice. This is a responsibility that keeps him in close touch with our antitrust practice across the world. He is also a very regular visitor to Japan and other Asian countries. Christopher's work has involved a wide variety of industries, such as air cargo, beverage alcohol, consumer electronics, electronic components, fast-moving consumer goods, financial services, freight-forwarding, logistics, maritime transport, medical devices, metal production plants, metal trading, mobile devices, motor vehicles, paper, pharmaceuticals, railway services, software, thermal power generation, telecoms services, video games and wind turbines.

That said, Christopher has particular experience of the antitrust issues affecting industries in which technology, data and intellectual property are critical. He has been closely involved in many of the leading cases in this area, whether relating to interoperability, the enforcement of standard essential patents, patent



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### Languages

English  
French

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### Practices

Antitrust and Competition

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### Areas of focus

Antitrust and Competition Litigation  
Merger Control  
Abuse of Dominance and Restrictive Practices  
Competition Compliance  
Cartel Investigations  
Leniency Applications  
Dawn Raids

ambush, geo-blocking, performing rights licensing, digital advertising, online search, privacy, platforms, anti-piracy TPMs or any number of other issues.

## Representative experience

Acting for Google in the CMA's investigation of Google's Privacy Sandbox proposals to remove third-party cookies on Chrome and develop privacy-centric alternatives to support digital advertising.

Advising implementers of standards such as GPRS, EDGE, UMTS, HSPA, LTE, AMR-WB, H.264, HEVC, xDSL and WiFi on licence negotiations and litigation across Europe, as well as in arbitration claims.

Securing merger approvals around the world for the creation of Primetals Technologies, integrating the metal production plant building businesses of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Siemens.

Acting for Google in proceedings before the Court of Justice of the EU challenging the European Commission's Google Shopping decision.

Defending a Japanese electronic component manufacturer in the European Commission's capacitors cartel investigation, as well as before the General Court of the EU.

Acting in the Baltic Rail case before the European Commission, securing the reconstruction of the railway track between the complainant's refinery in Lithuania and Latvian ports.

Acting for Novell in the European Commission proceedings against Microsoft for abusing its dominance by restricting server interoperability, and intervening before the EU General Court.

## Awards and rankings

- Competition: EU - Belgium, *Chambers Global*, 2022

## Latest thinking and events

Agency Investigations

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## Education and admissions

### Education

LL.M., College of Europe

M.A., University of Cambridge

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### Bar admissions and qualifications

Solicitor, England and Wales

Brussels

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- News
  - National Security and Investment Act: first Annual Report published
- News
  - UK's Vertical Agreement Block Exemption Order goes live - heralding a new age of vertical divergence?
- News
  - UK competition reforms: new CMA powers confirmed
- News
  - (Solo self-employed) Workers of the World Unite!
    - EC draft guidance on application of competition law to collective bargaining
- News
  - National Security and Investment Act: Nearly time for curtains up
- News
  - Gun-jumping: The EU General Court calls the shots