



PRICE COMPARISON AND COMPETITION

Thursday 26 April 2018 - 09:30-16:00

Le Châtelain Brussels Hotel

Rue du Châtelain 17 - 1000 Brussels

Digital comparison tools commonly known as price comparison sites allow consumers to compare prices for almost any product in a matter of seconds, free of charge, using just a few clicks to search the Internet. While at face value this looks like a positive, empowering development, many consumer watchdog organisations have started to raise questions about price comparison sites' reliability, transparency and accountability. Their most prominent concern targets how supplier commissions to the price comparison sites may skew rankings

Governments and competition authorities are starting to investigate. The UK's Competition and Markets Authority has completed a market study into price comparison sites. The German Federal Cartels Office is currently conducting a sector enquiry. Other agencies across Europe appear to be interested in launching their own enquiries.

WIK and CEPS are organizing a European debate on competition issues around price comparison sites. We have invited a line-up of excellent high-level expert speakers from the European Commission, national competition authorities and the University of St. Gallen to discuss the actual impact of price comparison tools on consumers and suppliers as well as the entire economy.

Exceptionally, this event is free of charge and taking place not at CEPS, but at Le Châtelain Brussels Hotel, Rue du Châtelain 17, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

AGENDA

9:30 – 10:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome by WIK Dr Iris Henseler-Unger, Managing Director WIK
10:10 – 10:40	Digital Comparison Tools – Just another online platform? Dr Werner Stengg, Head of Unit DG CONNECT
10:40 – 11:10	What is the role of Digital Comparison Tools for competition? Dr Rossitza-Anguelova Kotzeva, Chief Economist's Team DG COMPETITION
11:10 – 12:00	Key Insights from CMA's market study on Digital Comparison Tools in the UK Dr. Nenad Njegovan, Economics Director Competition & Markets Authority
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:00	Digital Comparison Tools in Germany – Main results of a WIK study in the EU context Dr René Arnold, Head of Department WIK
14:00 – 14:30	The role of Digital Comparison Tools in customer journeys Prof Dr Peter Maas, Vice President I.VW - University of St. Gallen
14:30 – 15:30	Discussion on Digital Comparison Tools in Europe – Where will go from here? Moderator: William Echikson, Head of Digital Forum CEPS
15:30 – 16:00	Get together