



### Darach Connolly

#### Legal Director

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Darach Connolly leads DLA Piper's EU and Irish competition and regulatory practice in Ireland. He has extensive experience advising international and domestic clients at EU and Irish level.

For competition rules, he advises on a wide range of issues including EU and national merger control, EU and Irish market investigations, cartel proceedings, distribution and licensing agreements, abuse of dominance, competition complaints and actions for damages. Most recently, Darach has led on the interaction between competition law and the sustainability agenda.

For regulatory issues, he has detailed experience covering public procurement and State aid rules as well in-depth sector knowledge in the areas of air transport, telecommunications and audio-visual services. In addition, in the Life Sciences sector, Darach has advised on complex medical product and device rules, COVID-19 related issues and healthcare services, including complaints to DG Sante.

Darach sits on the Committee of the Irish Society for European Law (ISEL) and is Recommended by Global Competition Review (GCR).

#### Merger control

- Advising a global chip manufacturer on the multijurisdictional aspects of a major acquisition, including drafting the Full-Form CO to the Commission, and various national filings.
- Advising an Irish dairy on its acquisition by a global food producer, which resulted in a successful unconditional clearance despite an in-depth Phase II investigation by the CCPC in Ireland.
- Advising numerous Irish and international financial / private equity institutions on merger filings to the CCPC in Ireland and the CMA in the UK.

#### Cartels, investigations, antitrust and dominance

- Advising a major Japanese auto parts supplier on all aspects of the European Commission's cartel investigation and settlement

- Telecom
- Transport

- Consumer Goods, Food and Retail
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Financial Services
- Industrials
- Infrastructure, Construction and Transport
- Insurance
- Life Sciences
- Media, Sport and Entertainment
- Real Estate
- Technology

procedure into Occupant Safety Systems (AT.39881).

- Advising a global sportswear brand on the inspection and investigation by the European Commission into restrictions imposed on licensed merchandise (AT.40436).
- Advising a major Japanese engine manufacturer on a horizontal cooperation agreement with a competitor to produce new products.
- Advising clients on cartel legacy issues, such as liability, document retention, limitation periods and follow-on actions for damages, associated with EU decisions in Industrial Tubes (AT.38240), Copper Plumbing Tubes (AT. 38069), Fittings (AT. 38121), and Bearings (AT.39922).

#### Regulatory

- Advising a major Irish bank on the implications under Irish and EU law arising from certain European Commission State aid “crisis” restructuring decisions in the Irish financial sector.
- Advising an international aviation infrastructure firm on the public procurement aspects of its successful tender to construct a EUR40 million fuel terminal at Dublin Airport.
- Advising a significant licensor of flooring technology on litigation associated with patent licensing and application of the Technology Transfer Block Exemption Regulation (TTBER).

## CREDENTIALS

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### Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor regulated by the Law Society of Ireland
- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

### Education

- Kings College London, Diploma in Economics for Competition Law, 2020
- University College Dublin, BCL (International), 2007
- University of Minnesota (International), 2006

### Memberships

- Qualified Irish Solicitor, 2012
- Registered at the Brussels Bar E-List, 2016

## INSIGHTS

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### Publications

#### Solutions to the impact of Brexit on Northern Ireland trade

29 October 2021

DLA Piper Trade Truths

The Northern Ireland Protocol (the Protocol) has been back in the headlines recently as politicians in the UK, Ireland, and EU try to ease the difficulties faced by many businesses as they move their goods between Great Britain (GB), made up of England, Wales, and Scotland; Northern Ireland (NI) and Ireland, which is an EU Member State.

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#### Antitrust Matters – September 2021

7 September 2021  
Antitrust Matters

We are pleased to share with you a New Edition of our periodical global publication Antitrust Matters.

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### **Learning the lessons on excessive pricing from Aspen**

7 September 2021  
Antitrust Matters

Back in April 2017, The *Times* ran a story detailing how a drug giant had a “secret plan” to destroy a cancer medicine unless large price rises were agreed to by national purchasing authorities. A month later, the European Commission opened an investigation into Aspen.

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### **European Commission Pushes Boundaries of EU Merger Control**

19 April 2021

The European Commission pushes boundaries of EU Merger Control policy to accept and review certain transactions that do not meet any merger control thresholds. The policy shift will require parties engaged in M&A with a European footprint to modify their approach to deal documentation and structuring.

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### **Irish Consultation on Collective Redress Directive (CRD)**

30 March 2021

Ireland has launched an important public consultation on implementing the recently adopted EU Collective Redress Directive (CRD).

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### **Antitrust Matters - Special edition**

17 December 2020  
Antitrust Matters

We are pleased to share with you a Special Edition of our periodical global publication Antitrust Matters.

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### **First Major Fine for Wide MFN Clause Imposed on Price Comparison Website**

8 December 2020

On 19 November 2020, the UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) imposed a fine of GBP17.9 million on a price comparison website operator for imposing most favoured nation clauses (MFNs) in contracts with home insurers selling through the well-known website, comparethemarket.com.

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### **Aspen: Quick Fix But Missed Opportunity**

28 October 2020

The recent effort by the Commission to settle the Aspen case suggests that commitment decisions are the preferred route to settle complex excessive pricing cases at EU-level.

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### **Antitrust Matters**

September 2020

Antitrust Matters

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## PARENTAL LIABILITY IN EU COMPETITION LAW

On 30 April 2020, the Irish Journal of European Law published a detailed article by Darach Connolly on the liability aspects of corporate groups for competition infringements. The article considers significant EU cases and explores the potential for Irish courts to address this controversial rule in future. The IJEL is Ireland's leading journal dedicated to the analysis of European law, with broad readership in Ireland and abroad. The article is accessible from the IJEL.

## NEWS

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### DLA Piper expands Litigation and Regulatory offering in Dublin with key hires

1 February 2021

DLA Piper today announces the expansion of its Litigation and Regulatory practice in Dublin with the appointment of two key hires, as part of the firm's ongoing growth in Ireland.

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