

*Unter dem Ehrenschutz des LHM von Salzburg Dr. Wilfried Haslauer*

## 1b Preparation Module

### Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)

#### *The question of tech monopolies*

*Recently, the European Union has started to issue heavy fines and changing regulations to crack down on monopolistic tactics of several tech and social media companies that prevent competition and deliberately limit the choices and opinions of consumers.*

*How can the Union further protect consumers and tech companies alike from unfair competition by multi-billion corporations while also ensuring that it does not breach free market laws and non-governmental intervention?*

The IMCO committee chairing team:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b> <b>E-mail</b>
<b>IMCO</b>	
Committee President (CP) 1	Anna Bota <a href="mailto:anna.bota@bgklosterneuburg.at">anna.bota@bgklosterneuburg.at</a>
CP2	Olha Dudurych <a href="mailto:olha.dudurych@bgklosterneuburg.at">olha.dudurych@bgklosterneuburg.at</a>
CP Sec	Ava-Barbara Dirnbacher – CP Sec <a href="mailto:dirnav19@theresianum.ac.at">dirnav19@theresianum.ac.at</a>
<b>Committee Issue Expert (CIE)</b>	<b>Sofiia Kutsyna</b> <a href="mailto:Sofiia.Kutsyna@bgzaunergasse.at">Sofiia.Kutsyna@bgzaunergasse.at</a>

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Distinguished delegates,

as your committee presidents we are delighted to welcome you to this year’s Austrian national session of the Model European Parliament. During this weekend in Salzburg you will be debating the question of tech monopolies and how to better encourage healthy competition and choice of product for consumers in the European Union. During this weekend, take the opportunity to learn about this and many other new topics, to connect with people from across the country and to learn new skills.

Monopolies lead to a lack of consumer choice especially in the digital sector, which often has a hyper-concentrated market of large platforms with a firm grip on customers and data, made worse by aggressive acquisitions policies, with large companies incorporating innovative start ups and pursuing monopolistic policies. As a member of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection you will be faced with debates on various related question. This file is supposed to help you with your research. Think about the following questions to help you with the structure of your preparatory work.

1. How can the European Union guarantee that the values of the **TFEU (Treaty of the functioning of the European Union)** are effectively enforced in the tech sector and to what extent can legislation around the **DMA (Digital Markets Act)** and **DSA (Digital Services Act)** be tightened to increase company responsibility rather than interfere in the free market?
2. How can we ensure that different government policy in regards to the enforcement of competition standards does not distort the competition in the European market?
3. How can the EU ensure a better anti-trust enforcement to protect market, small competitors, and consumers over the long run?
4. How can the European Union further protect consumers and tech companies alike from unfair competition by multi-billion corporations without breaching free market laws?

Use the sources provided below to gain a thorough understanding of our committee issue and get clear on your viewpoint and ideas for possible solutions – your insights will be key to a successful resolution!

Writing your own position paper will truly help you in solidifying your understanding of our committee issue. That is why we kindly ask you to **submit a position paper by Wednesday, Januray 8<sup>th</sup> 2025, 20h00 CET** via e-mail:

Committee President (CP)	Anna Bota <a href="mailto:anna.bota@bgklosterneuburg.at">anna.bota@bgklosterneuburg.at</a>
CoCP	Olha Dudurych <a href="mailto:olha.dudurych@bgklosterneuburg.at">olha.dudurych@bgklosterneuburg.at</a>

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We would also like to have **a first committee meeting via zoom on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 17h00 CET**. Please save the date!

We hope that these resources will help you in your research. If you have additional questions feel free to contact us via e-mail. We are happy to help you with any questions that may arise and support you through this experience that we hope will be an invaluable one.

Use this weekend to refine your debating skills and teamwork. Take the opportunity to learn about various topics and meet new people from across the country. We are looking forward to hearing from you and soon meeting you at the session!

Best regards,  
Your Committee Presidents

Here you can find sources to help you with your preparatory work. **Please keep in mind that these sources are meant to be a guideline for your research, but you should also research beyond these articles!**

EU legislation:

- [https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/antitrust-and-cartels\\_en](https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/antitrust-and-cartels_en)
- <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/digital-services-act-package>
- <https://www.bruegel.org/policy-brief/three-pillars-effective-european-union-competition-policy>

Terminology and overview of the topic:

- <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/m/monopoly.asp>
- <https://www.journaloftechlaw.org/2019/03/10/we-need-to-talk-about-data-how-digital-monopolies-arise-and-why-they-have-power-and-influence/>
- [https://digital-markets-act.ec.europa.eu/gatekeepers\\_en](https://digital-markets-act.ec.europa.eu/gatekeepers_en)
- <https://www.economicshelp.org/microessays/markets/regulation-monopoly/>

Our topic in numbers:

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- <https://observer.com/2024/02/earnings-recap-2023-google-microsoft-amazon-meta-apple/>
- <https://www.statista.com/chart/29273/investments-in-big-tech-companies/>

Case studies:

- <https://www.politico.eu/article/google-advertising-tech-case-monopoly-us-eu-regulation-big-tech/>
- <https://www.wired.com/story/epic-games-store-eu-launch-vs-apple/> (needs a subscription, accessible as a podcast for free)
- <https://www.linklaters.com/en/insights/blogs/digilinks/2023/may/eu---the-billion-euro-irish-fine>