

# Vertical Agreements in EU Competition Law: A Comprehensive Guide

Vertical agreements are agreements between businesses that operate at different levels of the supply chain. They can take many forms, such as distribution agreements, franchising agreements, and agency agreements. Vertical agreements can have a significant impact on competition, and as such, they are subject to close scrutiny under EU competition law.



## Vertical Agreements in EU Competition Law

by Ioannis Iglezakis

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 9442 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 494 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## The Legal Framework

The legal framework governing vertical agreements in the EU is set out in Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Article 101(1) prohibits agreements between businesses that restrict competition. However, Article 101(3) provides an exemption for agreements that contribute to improving the production or distribution of goods or services, or that promote technical or economic progress.

The European Commission has adopted a number of regulations and guidelines to further clarify the application of Article 101 to vertical agreements. These include the Vertical Block Exemption Regulation (VBER), which provides a safe harbor for certain types of vertical agreements, and the Vertical Guidelines, which provide guidance on the assessment of vertical agreements under Article 101.

## **Recent Developments**

In recent years, there have been a number of important developments in the area of vertical agreements in EU competition law. These include the adoption of the VBER in 2010, the revision of the Vertical Guidelines in 2015, and the increasing use of dawn raids by the European Commission to investigate suspected infringements of Article 101.

## **Vertical Agreements in Practice**

Vertical agreements can be a valuable tool for businesses to improve their efficiency and competitiveness. However, it is important to be aware of the potential competition law risks associated with vertical agreements. Businesses should carefully consider the terms of their vertical agreements and seek legal advice if necessary.

Vertical agreements are a complex and evolving area of EU competition law. *Vertical Agreements in EU Competition Law* provides a comprehensive guide to this important topic. Written by leading competition law experts, this book is an essential resource for businesses, lawyers, and anyone else interested in this area of law.

## **About the Authors**

The authors of Vertical Agreements in EU Competition Law are leading competition law experts with many years of experience. They have advised businesses and governments on all aspects of EU competition law, including vertical agreements. Their expertise and insights are invaluable to anyone interested in this complex and evolving area of law.

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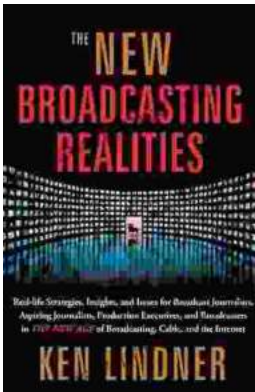
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