

# Competition and Regulation in the Digital Economy: A Roadmap

## Summary

Technology companies such as those in the famous “GAFAM” acronym seem to be the main object of attention in the fields of antitrust and regulation these days. These firms are the target of numerous enforcement actions by competition agencies, and the areas they operate in are regularly examined by market studies or sectoral inquiries. Beyond antitrust activity, major efforts are also afoot internationally to design new ex ante regulatory frameworks applying to such companies. More generally, the questions raised by the digital economy are the subject of daily commentary in all forms of publications. Yet, despite the level of attention devoted to this area of our economies, public conversation on these topics remains hobbled by misconceptions and misunderstandings. This workshop aims to illuminate the landscape of the key substantive issues and provide TSE attendees with a practitioner’s perspective on the questions raised. It will explore the shape taken by competition online, the role of data in business models, specific conduct such as self-preferencing and individual issues such as concerns around so-called “killer acquisitions”. This broad vista will be connected to some of the key policy problems of the day - in particular, the design of regulatory frameworks for this fast-moving space.

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Fabien Curto Millet is Director of Economics at Google, where he’s worked since 2011. Based in Los Angeles, he reports to and works closely with Chief Economist Hal Varian on the development of data-driven insights for Google’s senior leadership and on research to evaluate the economic and societal impacts of Google and the Internet. Fabien also leads the economic analyses in all antitrust and regulatory processes involving Google at a global level, and is deeply engaged in current debates around the shape of future regulation for the digital economy. Fabien was previously a Senior Consultant in the European Competition Policy Practice of NERA Economic Consulting, working on cases in a variety of sectors including airports, consumer electronics, financial information, music publishing, pay TV, retailing, and satellite communications. He was educated at Oxford University, obtaining a BA in Economics and Management, an MPhil in Economics, and a Doctorate in Economics. For two years Fabien was a Lecturer in Economics at Balliol College, Oxford. He further obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in EC Competition Law from King’s College, London.