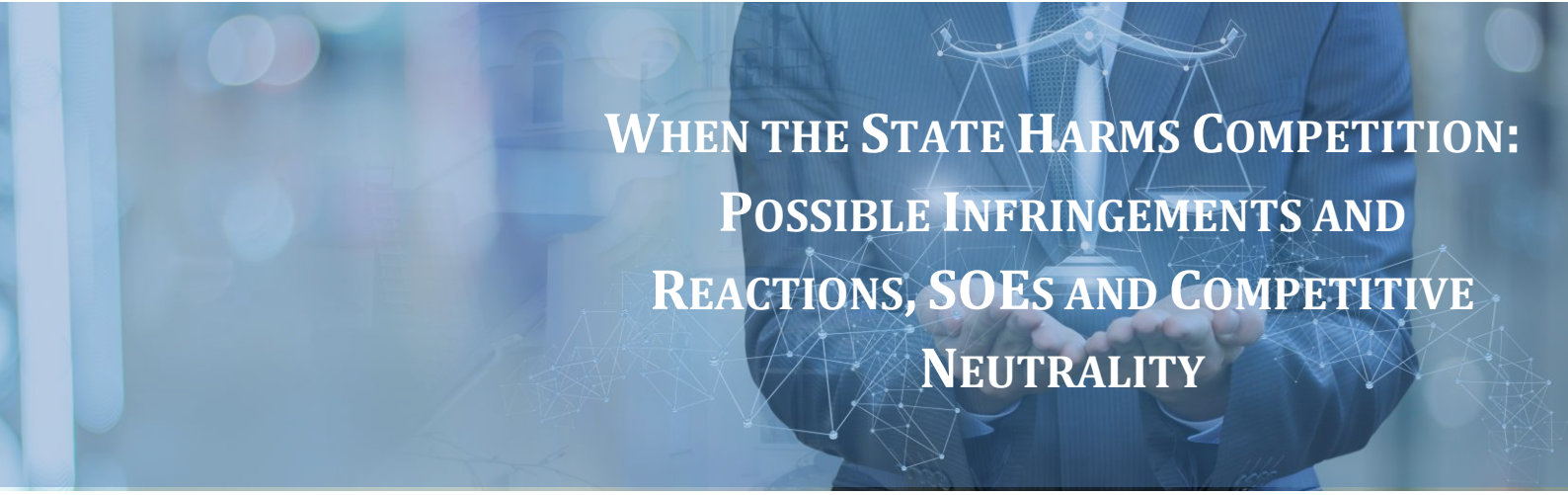

When the State Harms Competition: Possible Infringements and Reactions, SOEs and Competitive Neutrality

Agenda

Ljubljana, Slovenia **4-6 November 2025**

Keynote speaker:	**Eleanor Fox, Emeritus Professor NYU (online presentation)**
Invited speakers:	**Andrej Matvoz, Slovenian Competition Protection Agency**
	Alexei Gherțescu, Competition Council of the Republic of Moldova
	Zoltán Nándor Ay, Hungarian Competition Authority
	Antis Apsītis, Competition Council of the Republic of Latvia
	Renato Ferrandi, Italian Competition Authority
	Jon Polanec, Practicing lawyer
	Alexandr Svetlicinii, Macau University
Academic Director:	**María Pilar Canedo, OECD**

This high-level seminar will explore the complex role of the State in competition enforcement.

Through a combination of case discussions and expert insights, the event will examine situations in which public authorities or State-owned enterprises (SOEs) may distort competition – whether intentionally or as a result of regulatory design.

Participants will delve into relevant legal frameworks, recent case law, and the policy tools available to address such infringements at both the national and international levels. The seminar will also highlight the concept of **competitive neutrality** – a principle aimed at ensuring a level playing field by eliminating or mitigating undue competitive advantages enjoyed by certain market players over their rivals.

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Tuesday, 4 November 2025	
09.30–10.00	**Welcome and opening remarks** Andrej **Matvoz**, *Director of the Slovenian Competition Protection Agency* Attila **Sipos**, *Secretary General of the Hungarian Competition Authority* María Pilar **Canedo**, *Academic Director of the OECD-GVH Regional Centre* **Tour de table** **Family Picture**
10.00–10.30	**Key-note speech** Andrej **Matvoz**, *Director of the Slovenian Competition Protection Agency*
10.30–10.50	**Coffee break**
10.50–11.30	**When the state harms competition. Introduction to possible reactions** María Pilar **Canedo**, *Academic Director of the OECD-GVH Regional Centre*
11.30–12.00	**Addressing regulation through advocacy in Italy** Renato **Ferrandi**, *Head of International and European Affairs at the Italian Competition Authority*
12.00–13.30	**Lunch break**
13.30–14.00	**SOEs and competition. How competitors can enter markets traditionally controlled by the state** Jon **Polanec**, *Practicing lawyer*
14.00–14.45	**Fostering competition in public services to municipalities in Italy and leveraging advocacy** Renato **Ferrandi**, *Head of International and European Affairs at the Italian Competition Authority*
14.45–15.00	**Coffee break**
15.00–15.30	**Key-note speech: When the state harms competition. The role for competition law** Eleanor **Fox**, *Emeritus NYU (online presentation)*
15.30–17.00	**Hypothetical case exercise 1**
18.00	**Boat ride and dinner on River Ljubljanica**

Wednesday, 5 November 2025	
09.30–10.15	**How to determine the existence of "single economic unit" comprised of SOEs for the purpose of merger control** Alexandr **Svetlicinii**, *Associate Professor of Global Legal Studies at University of Macau*
10.15–11.00	**"State vs Itself": Competition authorities investigating anticompetitive actions of other public bodies** Alexei **Gherțescu**, *President of the Competition Council of the Republic of Moldova*
11.00–11.15	**Coffee break**
11.15–12.00	**Cases of State Involvement in Competition Matters in Hungary** Zoltán Nándor **Ay**, *Member of the Competition Council of the GVH*
12.00–13.15	**Lunch break**
13.15–14.00	**Why the administration does not ask for damages in competition infringements** María Pilar **Canedo**, *Academic Director of the OECD-GVH Regional Centre*
14.00–14.45	**Competitive neutrality framework in Latvia** Antis **Apsītis**, *Head of the Competition Promotion Department, Competition Council of the Republic of Latvia*
14.45–15.15	**Coffee break**
15.15–17.00	**Hypothetical case exercise 2**

Thursday, 6 November 2025	
09.00–09.45	**How to assess competitive incentives of SOEs in context of merger control.** Alexandr **Svetlicinii**, *Associate Professor of Global Legal Studies at University of Macau*
09.45–10.30	**Allies or Adversaries? Balancing competition advocacy, enforcement, and respect for the powers of other public institutions and policymakers.** Alexei **Gherțescu**, *President of the Competition Council of the Republic of Moldova*
10.30–10.45	**Coffee break**
10.45–11.15	**Assessment procedure for public bodies' participation in capital companies in Latvia** Antis **Apsītis**, *Head of the Competition Promotion Department, Competition Council of the Republic of Latvia*
11.15–11.45	**Final remarks and Kahoot game** Antis **Apsītis**, Zoltán Nándor **Ay**, Alexei **Gherțescu**, Alexandr **Svetlicinii** and María Pilar **Canedo**
11.45–12.00	**Delivery of certificates**
12.00–14.00	**Lunch**