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The application of EU antitrust law to (dominant) online platforms

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Acknowledgements

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When I first drafted my PhD research plan in 2016, I had set myself the goal of completing my dissertation in no more than four years. Along the way this goal proved a little bit too ambitious as it did not take into account the many unexpected events and opportunities that life brings. Although my academic journey has lasted longer than expected it has also been much richer and more pleasant than I initially imagined it would be. During this time I was able to reflect extensively on my research and adapt it in correspondence to the constant evolutions that took place in practice, which I believe has contributed greatly to the relevance and quality of the end result. Furthermore, I was also able to participate in research exchanges and pursue various academic and professional endeavors that helped to motivate me throughout the different stages of my work. Most importantly, however, this period allowed me to balance my time well between my life in the Netherlands and in Israel, which has made the entire process far more pleasant than envisaged.

Now that this process has reached its final stage, it is appropriate to look back and acknowledge those who have helped make it possible. To begin with, I am very grateful that Prof. Tom Ottervanger was willing to support my PhD idea that was perceived as quite experimental at the time, as online platforms were not given the same enforcement priority as they are today. I am very thankful for Tom's guidance that helped me navigate through the uncharted waters of my topic as well as for the freedom he gave me to explore my own ideas and visions. I am also very grateful that Dr. Ben Van Rompuy joined this project as second supervisor with great enthusiasm and interest. Throughout the writing process we have had countless discussions on my topic and on competition law in general, which have been very valuable for this dissertation.

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Curriculum Vitae

Daniel Mândrescu was born on the 3rd of May 1987 in Galati, Romania. In 2007 he graduated from Hugim High school in Haifa Israel, after which he moved to the Netherlands for his academic studies. In 2008, after obtaining the Dutch language NTII diploma, he started his academic studies at the University of Amsterdam. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree (Rechtsgeleerdheid) in 2012. Daniel continued his studies at the University of Amsterdam where he also obtained, in 2013, two Master of Laws (LLM) degrees in European and International law (European Competition Law and Regulation track and International Trade and Investment Law track). During his studies, Daniel worked as a student assistant, teaching assistant and member of the curriculum committee of the European Competition Law and Regulation LLM track at the University of Amsterdam. Following his studies, in 2014, Daniel followed two internships in the competition law and regulation departments at the Amsterdam offices of Allen & Overy and Loyens & Loeff.

In October 2015, Daniel started his work and research as a PhD Fellow at the Leiden Law School of Leiden University. In the course of his research project Daniel was a visiting researcher at University College London in 2017. As of 2018 Daniel became a contributing editor of the CoRe Blog of Lexxion and from 2020 also the co-managing editor of Wolters Kluwer European Merger Decisions Digest and the co-creator of the Market Definition Locator. In 2020 he was the editor of the FIDE congress volume on competition law and the digital economy.

In the range of books published by the Meijers Research Institute and Graduate School of Leiden Law School, Leiden University, the following titles were published in 2021 and 2022

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