

## WHAT WE DID IN 2006...

- On 1 January 2006 **contrast** – European & Business law started as an independent and specialised EU, competition and business law firm. We regularly organise and speak at seminars and conferences in our practice areas and publish in our fields of specialisation. What follows is a selection of these activities in 2006.
- The start of **contrast** is reported in the Belgian national press (incl. *De Tijd*, 18 Jan. 2006), the specialised international press (Global Competition Review), as well as on [www.brusselslegal.eu](http://www.brusselslegal.eu) (<http://www.brusselslegal.eu/content/view/253/36/>).
- From its start, **contrast** provides selected clients with the **Antitrust Alert**, compiled by Maaïke Visser, which provides a daily overview of the most important competition law developments in the EU and the EU member states. Should you wish to receive the Antitrust Alert, please let us know by sending a mail to [info@contrast-law.be](mailto:info@contrast-law.be).
- An article by Herlinde Burez and Filip Tuytschaever on the Court of Justice acknowledging the powers of the European Community to oblige Member States to provide criminal sanctions for the protection of the environment is published in issue n°1(2006) of the *Journal for Belgian Commercial Law (Tijdschrift voor Belgisch Handelsrecht)*.
- On 24 March 2006, the spring meeting of our **Antitrust Alliance** is held in Rotterdam. The Antitrust Alliance combines specialised competition law teams in the majority of EU Member States, thereby addressing the implications of the EU's policy to decentralise the application of the competition rules. External speakers at this meeting are Mr. **Pieter Kalbfleisch**, Chairman of the Dutch Competition Authority, who speaks about the “*Structure and policy of the NMa, recent cases*”, and Prof. **Floris Vogelaar**, who gives an overview of the application of Art 82 EC. **contrast** assumes the role of secretary of the Antitrust Alliance and Sofie De Keer functions as the point of contact for the Antitrust Alliance members.

- Frank Wijckmans participates in a working panel of the **Federation of Enterprises in Belgium** on trade associations and competition law.
- On 28 March 2006, Bart Bellen and Frank Wijckmans give a seminar at VOKA Halle Vilvoorde on the rights and obligations of directors of non-listed companies: 'Help, I am a director!' ("Help, ik ben een bestuurder"). The seminar is widely attended and reported in issue N° 5(2006) of **Ondernemers**, published by VOKA.
- April 2006: Oxford University Press publishes **Vertical Agreements in EC Competition Law**, a monograph co-authored by Frank Wijckmans and Filip Tuytschaever on the EC competition law regime governing vertical agreements inside and outside the block exemption regulations on vertical restraints and on motor vehicle distribution. As regards the latter, Frank Wijckmans was assisted by Sofie De Keer.
- Filip Tuytschaever is invited as correspondent editor for Belgium for the 6th edition of PM Roth (ed.), *Bellamy & Child, European Community Law of Competition* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).
- Frank Wijckmans is asked as member of the Board of Editors of the newly started *Journal for Belgian Competition (Tijdschrift voor Belgische Mededinging)*.
- Bart Bellen, Frank Wijckmans and Thomas De Clerck organise a survey among a representative selection of companies, law firms, banks and corporate finance advisors on typical features of M&A transactions in Belgium ("**M&A Survey**"), the results of which will be published in 2007.
- On 15 June 2006, **contrast** organises, in collaboration with M&D Seminars, a one-day conference on "*Current Trends in Distribution Law*" ("*Actuele Trends in het Distributierecht*"). Frank Wijckmans speaks on distribution agreements inside and outside the EC block exemption regulation (Regulation (EC) 2790/99).
- On 19 June 2006, Frank Wijckmans speaks on competition law in the framework of a continuing legal education programme at the University of Brussels (VUB).

- On 20 June 2006, Bart Bellen and Frank Wijckmans are invited to speak at Graydon Belgium N.V. The seminar is entitled, “Help, I am a director!” (“Help, ik ben een bestuurder”).
- A case note by Filip Tuytschaever on the concept of undertakings in competition law appears in issue n. 2(2006) of the *Journal for Belgian Competition (Tijdschrift voor Belgische Mededinging)*.
- In July-September 2006, Caroline Van Daele and Anitka Sanders are our first summer trainees. In addition to assisting **contrast** lawyers on cases, they do research for a new monograph which the EU and competition law team is preparing on horizontal cartels under EC competition law.
- On 5 September 2006, Bart Bellen and Frank Wijckmans give a seminar before an audience of entrepreneurs in Moeskroen on directors’ liability and recent legislative developments, including pre-contractual information obligations, the abolishment of bearer shares, new rules on the liquidation of companies and the new Belgian competition law.
- On 25 September 2006, Bart Bellen speaks on the use of management companies and independent contractors at a seminar organised by VOKA Halle Vilvoorde.
- Caroline Van Daele joins **contrast** as an associate on 1 October 2006. Caroline combines her first year at **contrast** with her continued specialisation in corporate law at the University of Brussels (KUB).
- Herlinde Burez is asked as regular contributor to the case-law section of the *Journal for Belgian Competition (Tijdschrift voor Belgische Mededinging)*.
- “Den Autoren ist es in besonderer Weise gelungen, ein Werk zu verfassen, welches theoretisch anspruchsvoll ist und zugleich den Praktiker in seiner täglichen Arbeit gut unterstützt, da es gut strukturiert und in einer klaren Sprache verfasst ist”. A review of our book ‘Vertical Agreements in EC Competition Law’ appears in n. 11/2006 of

*Wirtschaft und Wettbewerb* (<http://www.vhb.de/wuw/>), the leading German competition law journal.

- On 23 November 2006, Filip Tuytschaever and Frank Wijckmans give a competition law seminar at Agoria (Brussels, Belgium) on the new Belgian Competition Act.
- On 24 November 2006, the fall meeting of the **Antitrust Alliance** is held in Brussels. The external speaker at this meeting is Mr. André Bouquet of the Competition Law Team of the European Commission's Legal Service.
- On 5 December 2006, **contrast** organises, in collaboration with M&D Seminars, a one-day **conference on the new Belgian Competition Law**. In addition to Filip Tuytschaever and Frank Wijckmans, speakers include judge Schurmans from the Brussels Court of Appeal, Prof. Verboven from the University of Leuven, as well as Mr. Kyndt from the Belgian competition authority.
- "*The book is thorough, accurate and perceptive. It is warmly welcome*". Our book *Vertical Agreements in EC Competition Law* is reviewed by one of the leading EC competition law specialists, Prof. Valentine Korah, in n. 4(2006) of **World Competition**.