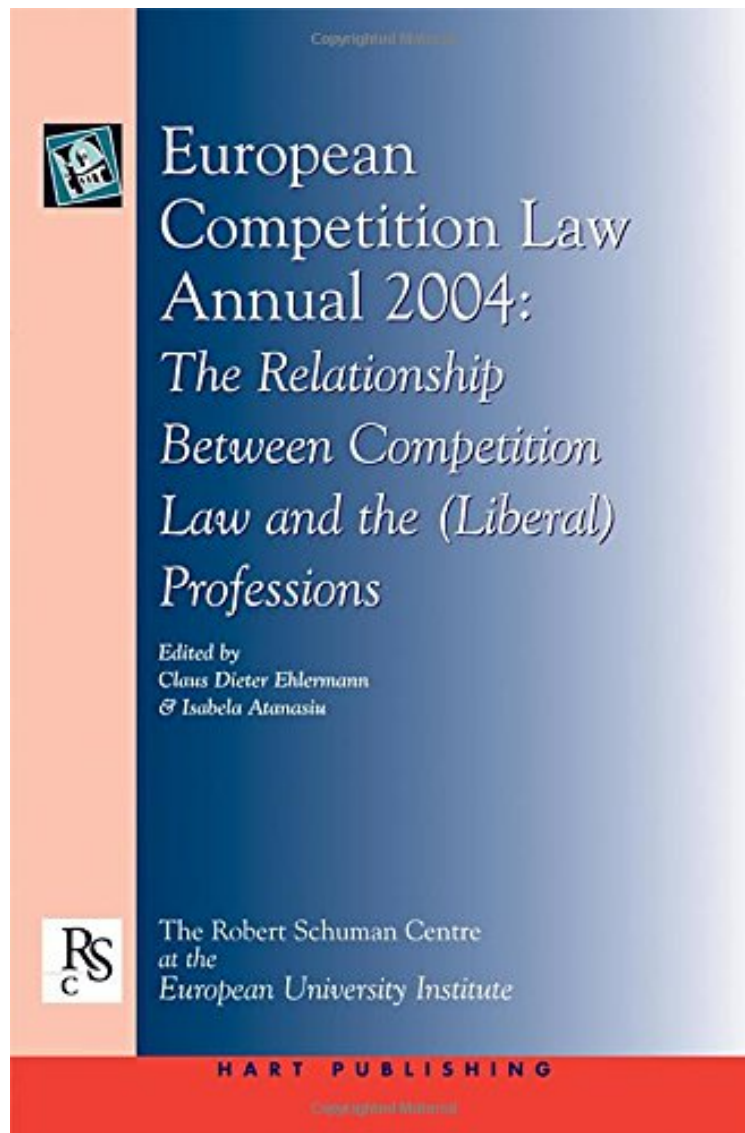


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The European Competition Law Annual 2004 is ninth in a series of volumes following the annual workshops on EU Competition Law and Policy held at the Robert Schuman Centre of the European University Institute in Florence. This volume reproduces the materials of the roundtable debate that took place at the ninth workshop (June 11-12 2004), which examined the relationship between competition law and the regulation of liberal professions. The liberal professions and the rules governing their functioning have become of interest for EC competition law enforcement since the early nineties, making them the object of a series of Commission decisions and judgments of the European courts. The subject has gained in importance in the perspective of the recent decentralization of EC antitrust enforcement. The regulation of liberal professions is also a matter of increasing concern from the perspective of freedom of services in the internal market. The workshop participants—a group of senior representatives of the Commission and the national competition authorities of some Member States, reknown international academics and legal practitioners—discussed the economic, legal, and political/institutional issues that arise in the relationship between competition law and the regulation of liberal professions.

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