

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# Skyward Bound: Innovating the FUTURE OF AVIATION

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UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI BERGAMO

Department  
of Law



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# Merger and Antitrust Regulations and Their Impact on Airline Cooperation

A brief introduction to the panel

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# Why this panel?

- Airline sector plays a vital role in global and domestic economies
- Connecting people and businesses across borders and driving commerce
- Yet, it's also an industry characterized by high barriers to entry, substantial fixed costs, and often limited competition on key routes
- As such, it has long been exposed to **antitrust scrutiny...**
- **Today we will learn more on the ongoing legal debate and critical competition policy matters....**

# Complex matters...especially in this industry

## **Timely** issues

- ❑ Ensure competition in a market where consolidation has been a dominant trend
- ❑ Searching for the right balance between fostering efficiency and preventing monopolistic behaviour
- ❑ Approach to mergers, alliances, and pricing practices in an industry that is essential but also prone to anti-competitive risks
- **Unique feature:** *transnational nature!*

# Broad perspective...

On both sides of the Atlantic policymakers are reflecting on the AA's role, functioning, and objectives. In the Airline industry some peculiar questions arise:

1. What should an AA maximize when customers locate in different countries?
2. How **sophisticated** regulation should be? **Strategic choice** for competing countries?...remember the paper *Tax me if you can...*
3. What is a **level playing field** when a company competes in markets that are cross border?
4. How to **promote competition** and at the same time **secure investments** if most competitors are under other jurisdictions?
5. Rethinking **merger policy** in an industry where merged entities choose the portfolio of products offered in addition to the quantity or the price of a single product
6. What is the role of GDSs in these matters? *Free lunch is a two-sided problem here....*

*We've brought together a diverse group of experts, including economists, legal scholars, and industry professionals, to explore the challenges and opportunities for antitrust regulation in the airline industry.*

*Through their insights, we hope to shed light on the best strategies for maintaining fair competition, promoting consumer welfare, and addressing the unique dynamics of this critical sector.*

*We look forward to a lively and engaging discussion.*

*Thank you all for being here....*