BAS DESSENS

E.CA Economics – A BRG Company

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SUMMARY

Bas Dessens is a Director at the London office of E.CA Economics – A BRG Company since May 2026. He joined E.CA in 2006 and has extensive experience in the field of competition economics. His work has focused on damage assessments related to cartel/information exchange cases (e.g. trucks, smart-card chips, air cargo), including collective actions, and economic analysis in the context of merger proceedings (e.g. EssilorLuxottica/GrandVision, Holcim/Lafarge, Knauf/Armstrong). In addition, he has been engaged in cases related to State aid, abuse of dominance, and regulatory matters.

Bas has experience across a broad range of sectors, including transportation, lifts, advertising, online platforms, microelectronics, pharmaceuticals, beverage distribution, beer, optical retail, hearing aids, petrol stations, groceries, telecommunications, auditing services, interchange fees, cinemas, car parts, forklift trucks, gas-insulated switchgear and various commodity industries.

Bas has supported clients in cases brought before the European Commission, the German Bundeskartellamt, the UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets, and the Belgian Competition Authority. For more than a year, Bas was seconded to the UK Competition Commission (the CMA's predecessor), where he worked on several merger proceedings and a market investigation.

Prior to joining E.CA, Bas served as a consultant for a business consultancy in the Netherlands. While there, he worked on several projects focusing on the consumer electronics, chemicals, and oil and gas industries. Bas holds master's degrees from Tilburg University in the Netherlands and Humboldt University of Berlin in the areas of business and economics.

Bas works in Dutch (native), English (high proficiency), German (fluent) and Spanish (fluent), and has a basic knowledge of French.

SELECTED CASE EXPERIENCE

CARTELS

- Supported defendant in various jurisdictions in the context of damage proceedings related to information exchange in the truck industry, including in front of the Lithuanian court (in a testifying capacity) and the UK CAT.
- Supported defendant in the context of UK private damage litigation related to the EC cartel decision on occupant safety systems for cars.
- Supported claimants in litigation related to interchange fees with downstream pass-on analysis
- Rebuttal of preliminary claims regarding potential impact of information exchange by members of Dutch trade association BMWT.
- Quantification of damages for claimant in the context of private litigation proceedings resulting from the air cargo cartel.
- Estimation of overcharge and private damages due to the German de-icing salt cartel.
- Supported international freight forwarder with data collection, validation, and submission in cartel investigations by competition authorities in several jurisdictions around the world.
- Econometric overcharge estimation regarding a price fixing and market-sharing cartel in the LPG market.
- Supported defendant against various follow-on damages claims brought in front of the UK CAT in relation to the smart card chip cartel.
- Supported independent economic expert for the higher court with the quantification of overcharges in the German cement cartel case.
- Analysis of relevant product markets affected by the EU elevator and escalator cartel.

MERGERS/HORIZONTAL AGREEMENTS

- Advised leading hearing aid producer with takeover in the German hearing aid retail market, including catchment area assessment for local markets with overlaps and price concentration analysis.
- Advised complainant active in the optical retail market in the context of foreclosure concerns related to EssilorLuxottica's acquisition of GrandVision.
- Assisting Kinepolis (cinemas) in a merger procedure to have behavioural remedies imposed on it by the competition authority to be lifted.
- Supporting a competitor in appraising the likely impact of the AB InBev acquisition in the Belgian on-trade beer market.
- Economic advisor (staff member) on various UK Competition Commission merger enquiries (Barr/Britvic, AEG/Wembley and Ericsson/Creative).
- Advised a leading cement producer in the context of various transactions.
- Supported the testifying expert for the Austrian Cartel Court on the Scholz/Graz (scrap metal) merger case: market definition and competitive effects.
- The REWE/Adeg merger case: quantitative analysis of the supplier structure of the two retailers, and of supplier overlaps in particular.

- Empirical analysis for a complaint against the envisaged cooperation between Google and Yahoo (online search engines).
- Supported a complainant regarding the Google/DoubleClick merger (online advertising).
- Study awarded by the CMA for ex-post review of selected set of CMA decisions related to vertical mergers.

STATE AID

- Advised Deutsche Bahn AG in EU proceedings regarding directly awarded regional passenger transportation contracts.
- Market economy investor test in the aviation industry to exclude any unfair advantages due to state ownership.
- State aid case in the airline catering industry: Estimation of the abnormal costs of a voluntary retirement scheme.
- Assessment of the compatibility of incentive payments with the market economy investor principal for a European airport.
- Assessment of incentive effect in relation to subsidies for investment in capacity/R&D as part of international project of common European interest (IPCEI) in the microelectronics sector.
- Feasibility assessment for potential complainant against government guarantee granted to producer in the chemical industry.

ABUSE OF DOMINANCE

- Preparation of CPO report for a stand-alone merchant claim against Amazon in relation to abuse of dominance, and input in the context of related carriage dispute.
- Support FMCG producer in the context of EC abuse of dominance investigation.
- Abuse of dominance: Analysis of the empirical relationship between measures of buyer power and the outcome of bilateral negotiations in the grocery retail industry.
- Abuse of dominance: Support soft drinks producer against request for interim measures by competitor in relation to rebate structures applied in the on-trade market.

OTHER AREAS

- Market investigation: Economic advisor (staff member) in the UK Competition Commission statutory audit services market investigation.
- Market investigation: Empirical analysis of retail petrol prices in a major German city for an industry association in the context of a sector enquiry by the German FCO.
- Regulation: Empirical analysis of the effect of stronger regulation on investment incentives in the telecommunications sector.
- Articles 81 and 82: Supported a downstream chemical compound producer in arbitration related to a long-term supply contract for an elemental chemical.

EDUCATION

MSc, Microeconomics and Econometric Methods — Humboldt University of Berlin, 2008
MSc, International Business, Organisation & Strategy — Tilburg University, 2003

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

E.CA Economics (a BRG company since May 2026)
Various roles, currently Director: Competition Policy, 2006-Present

Competition Commission UK, London, United Kingdom
Economic Advisor: Secondment, 2012-2014

Atos Consulting (formerly KPMG Consulting), Utrecht, the Netherlands
Business Consultant: Sarbanes Oxley/Cost Accounting, 2004-2006

Consultores en Logística Operativa, Mexico City, Mexico
Analyst: Market Research, 2003-2004

Institute for Development Studies, Cochin, India
Researcher: International Standards in Development Countries, 2002

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES, STUDIES AND REPORTS

(1) Dessens B., V. Hegde, N. Heusel, A. Kozakova (2023): Review of the CMA's approach to vertical mergers, CPI Antitrust Chronicle.

(2) E.CA Economics (2022): Ex-post Evaluation of Vertical Mergers, report for the CMA.

(3) Dessens B. and Verouden V. (2016): Nieuwe economische standaarden in fusiecontrole: Wat komt er na HHI en SSNIP (New economic standards in merger control: what comes after HHI and SSNIP; in Dutch), Tijdschrift Mededingingsrecht in de Praktijk, Sdu Uitgevers, The Hague.

(4) Friederiszick H. W., Dessens B. and Wiethaus L. (2009): Zugangsregulierung – Auswirkung auf Investitionen in das Festnetz in der Schweiz, Study for Swisscom AG.