

Preface

The Academic Society for Competition Law (ASCOLA) has to date held five international conferences. The first conference, organised in 2004 in Florence, was devoted to the 'Evolution of European Competition Law'. The second conference in Paris in 2006 addressed the relationship of 'Economic Theory and Competition Law'. A third conference, organised in Zurich in 2008, dealt with the 'Development of Competition Law'. 'More Common Ground for International Competition Law' was the topic of the fourth conference convened in 2009 in Washington, D.C. These conferences revealed a need for further discussion on the normative foundations of Competition Law: What are the goals of Competition Law? What is the relationship between the law and economic considerations? Does the law indicate that competition as a process ought to be furthered, and as far as this is the case, how does this goal relate to desired outcomes of competition such as an enhancement of welfare and distributional fairness? The board of ASCOLA deemed it necessary to deepen the discussion on these issues and decided to devote a conference to the 'Goals of Competition Law'. The conference took place in Bonn from 27–29 May 2010. This volume contains the contributions to this fifth international conference.

The conference was hosted by the newly founded Center for Advanced Studies in Law and Economics (CASTLE) at the University of Bonn. A distinguished scholar from the field of Law and Economics and current President of the American Law and Economics Association, Louis Kaplow from Harvard University, gave the inaugural speech to open the Center and the Conference. This contribution on the choice of welfare standards in competition law introduces the present volume.

Conference speakers were invited following a call for papers. The committee selecting the speakers consisted of Eleanor Fox (New York University), Josef Drexler (Max Planck Institute Munich), Wolfgang Kerber (University of Marburg) and the organiser of the conference, Daniel Zimmer (University of Bonn). The conference program was divided in two parts. A first part was devoted to basic issues of the normative foundations of competition law, including definitions of competition in a legal context, the economic content of competition law and its relationship to

goals such as efficiency and economic freedom. The second part of the conference addressed specific issues, including the question whether the goals of competition law depend on the state of development or on other particular aspects of the respective economy. The volume concludes with a contribution by the conference organiser that draws conclusions from the discussions and presents an additional thesis regarding the goals of competition law.

The editor expresses his gratitude to those institutions which supported the conference: Studienvereinigung Kartellrecht, a lawyers' association promoting research in the field of competition law, as well as CASTLE made generous contributions without which the conference could not have been realised. Special thanks go to the people who made the conference a success and assisted with the book publication: Timo Angerbauer did a wonderful job preparing and realising the conference in Bonn, and Thilo Wienke took care in the most valuable and sensible way of the process of reviewing the contributions and adapting them – where necessary – to the standards required for publication in this volume.

Daniel Zimmer
Bonn, April 2011

