Preface

When Edward Elgar invited me to put together a research handbook on trans-Atlantic antitrust issues, I saw it as an opportunity to do something different. Many comparative antitrust books focus predominantly on the positions in America and Europe. This is natural, but we can always benefit from other perspectives and experiences. I wanted to add some extra voices to the discussion to make it a more truly trans-Atlantic offering. I invited authors from a range of jurisdictions and asked if they would address particular pressing issues. I was pleased that so many responded positively: we have papers by well-established and leading experts in the field, including former and senior officials. I also wanted to include some 'up and comers', as well as practitioners who usually do not get an opportunity to reflect on systemic issues amid a busy practice.

Some books are put together after a conference. In our case, we decided to meet part-way through. Most of the authors assembled in London in May 2005, at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, to present and discuss their working drafts. This was an excellent opportunity to exchange views, and also to reflect on current and pending developments.

This is not a textbook, and does not attempt to describe every aspect of antitrust. The issues selected and the views expressed are important and challenging ones and I thank the contributors for their time and hard work. Thanks also to my research fellow at the British Institute, Peter Whelan, who helped enormously with the editing. This law is stated as at March 2006.

I hope that you find the arguments and ideas expressed in this handbook to be stimulating and I encourage you to respond with your own thoughts and publications, and thereby contribute to the growing international understanding on antitrust issues.

Dr Philip Marsden
British Institute of International and Comparative Law, London,
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