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Twenty years ago, Enrico Adriano Raffaelli came up with the idea of gathering scholars and practitioners to explore and discuss antitrust, a new field of law at the time.

In organizing the meeting, Enrico Adriano Raffaelli took two important decisions. The place: “It must be Treviso”, he said, and in choosing Treviso he took a chance. But he took also a second chance: the connection with European Law. Antitrust is not only a law of the Italian legal system. Antitrust must be studied and discussed in a European perspective. It must be part of an integrated European Antitrust Law.

When the first congress was over, Enrico Adriano Raffaelli took a third chance, or, if you prefer, a “historical” decision: the result of the meeting should not simply remain in the memories and experience of the pioneers who participated in the first meeting. The reports and speeches should be gathered in a Volume, to endure. And the Volume – the first of 11, now, should be published by an international editor, in various languages, to furnish material evidence of the international aim of antitrust.

So many years have passed since, and now the eleventh volume of the series, featuring the papers of the Eleventh Conference, held in

Treviso on May 15 and 16, 2014, has been published

In twenty years, Antitrust has undergone extensive changes. In a way, the eleven volumes already published by Bruylant and Giuffrè Editore mark the evolution and developments which have occurred in antitrust over the last two decades.

In the elapsing of time, not only the antitrust changed, but also the appreciation of the role of the European community, and therefore of European Union law has changed.

Let’s be candid. The EU is no longer seen as a hope for the future. It is seen as an unfriendly apparatus.

Vast political movements are emerging in Europe, challenging the idea of Europe as interpreted by the Community apparatus.

And this is not only a question of being “sceptic”. This populist movements are clearly very critical about the European Structure.

Consequently, the very idea of antitrust is affected, because the European Common Market originated had an economic goal, and antitrust is part of the economic action.

Antitrust works well when the economy is flourishing. It creates competition, fight burdensome monopolies, protects and favors consumers and, in Europe, reduces the importance and powers of the State-controlled economy. But now, in a time of economic crisis, many regret the intervention of the State in the economy.

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But what is the characteristic of this last volume?

As Giovanni Pitruzzella stated in his opening speech (pages 37 - 47), this is a time of crisis. It is therefore not surprising that the topic chosen by many speakers was State aid, and specifically, state aid in two delicate sectors of the modern economy: the automobile sector and the pharmaceutical industry.

Giovanni Pitruzzella presented a vivid analysis of the present times: “*Antitrust activities are suffering from this epochal process of change. The crisis has fuelled a desire for “public” and protection against competition*”. Therefore “*Antitrust faces two enemies that operate on two opposite fronts: the criticism of market economy and market fundamentalists*” and – he concludes – the future of antitrust “*is linked to that of market social economy*”. He indicates what he believes will be the future of antitrust in this historic moment. In doing so, he develops six key elements, the last one being the greater centrality of the consumer and the new ICA’s role in protecting consumers against unfair commercial conducts.

The articles and the contributions published in the volume may be subdivided in three different groups.

The first group responds to the need to update data and problems related to antitrust. Here we could mention the articles related to the analysis of recent developments in the field of public and private antitrust enforcement at national and European level and the classical topic of the relationship between competition and intellectual property.

The two other groups are related to the role of State Aids in the present crisis, in general and

with reference to two critical economic markets (Automobile and Pharmaceutical sector).

With reference to the first group, one may cite the articles of Peter Roth, Luke Haasbeek, Pierre Kobel and Roberto Chieppa. These papers focus on the text of the Directive on antitrust damages recently adopted by the European Parliament with the aim of removing practical obstacles to compensation for all victims of infringements of EU antitrust law. Private enforcement of antitrust laws by facilitating follow-on damages actions in national courts and removing obstacles for victims to obtain compensation for the harm that they suffered as a result of infringements is also considered.

With reference to the relationship between competition and intellectual property, the articles of Marina Tavassi, Mathew Heim and Jean-Yves Art may be mentioned. The topics examined in the articles include the unilateral refusal to license intellectual property rights, intellectual property rights’ licensing practices, extension of intellectual property rights beyond their statutory term on competition and the role of standardization agreements.

As we have previously seen, State Aids are at the center of a political controversial issue. This is evidenced in the articles of Massimo Scuffi, Vittorio Di Bucci, Fabrizio di Gianni, Mario Libertini e Raffaele Botta with the State Aid reform programme announced by the European legislator in May 2012 in the background.

The articles of Marc Greven, Stefano Grassani, Gabriella Muscolo, A. Paul Victor, Brandon W. Duke and José Manuel Otero Lastes are

dedicated to the Automobile sector. Automobile spare parts and the role of the "Repair Clause" are explored and discussed.

The articles of Annalisa Rocchietti, Mark R. Patterson, Samir R Gandhi, Fausto Massimino e Claudio Tesauro focus on the pharmaceutical sector.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the articles of Alessandro Noce, Angelica Orlando, Andrea Cicala, Riccardo Pennisi, Enrico Sisti and Antonio Pavan.

Finally, the preface prepared by the Editor Enrico Adriano Raffaelli provides the reader with an exhaustive summary of the various contributions and speeches.