Abstract - en

This thesis provides an analysis of current antitrust framework with focus on cartel agreements in the European Union. The Cox proportional hazard model is used to estimate predictors influencing duration of cartels. These predictors are divided into the following groups. Cartel’s size and internal structure, characteristics of cartel’s members, indicators of external market environment, internal controlling mechanisms and effectiveness of antitrust policies. The data on cartels prosecuted by the European Commission during the period from 1990 to 2014 were collected in order to compile a data set for the purpose of this thesis. Moreover, an overview of cartels’ detection methods is presented. This overview covers methods currently used by the European Commission and new market screening methods which may in the future contribute to more effective detection process. Market screening methods analyze real market processes and search for markers of collusive behaviour. Additionally, the impact of the leniency policy on cartels’ duration and on duration of administrative procedures is analyzed. The expected contribution of this thesis is to present a comprehensive overview of detection methods and variables influencing cartel’s duration and stability with use of current data set.