

## **ABSTRACT**

The Master's thesis provides readers with a basic analysis of Commission Regulation 330/2010. The mentioned regulation confers a benefit of the so called block exemption on broad spectrum of vertical agreements including in this context also certain agreements among competing undertakings. Since agreements enjoying the benefit of the block exemption are presumed to meet criteria stipulated in Article 101 (3) TFEU, the block exemption eliminates legal uncertainty which undertakings whose agreements distort competition within the meaning of Article 101 (1) TFEU would otherwise face. It follows that it is not necessary to examine such agreements on its merits. Thus, transaction costs are reduced.

Structure of the thesis is chosen so that it reflects three main questions concerning applicability of the block exemption, namely whether (i) an agreement falls within the scope of Commission Regulation 330/2010, whether (ii) it contains black clauses (hard-core restrictions) and whether (iii) it contains (non-severable) grey clauses.

After a brief description of wider connections and general issues in Chapter One, in Chapter Two the thesis deals with the scope of Commission Regulation 330/2010 with respect to the notion of vertical agreement, the role of intellectual property rights, the treatment of competing undertakings and association of undertakings and finally the market share threshold. Chapter Three is focused on hard-core restrictions; resale price maintenance and restrictions on resale are discussed in greater detail. Chapter Four is concerned with non-compete obligations. Finally, Chapter Five analyses corrective measures, i.e. withdrawal of the block exemption and disapplication of Commission Regulation 330/2010.