

Commission

# **ICN Merger Workshop 2018**

## - BOS 8 : Conglomerate Mergers-

All presenters speak in my personal capacity and present their personal views.

Competition

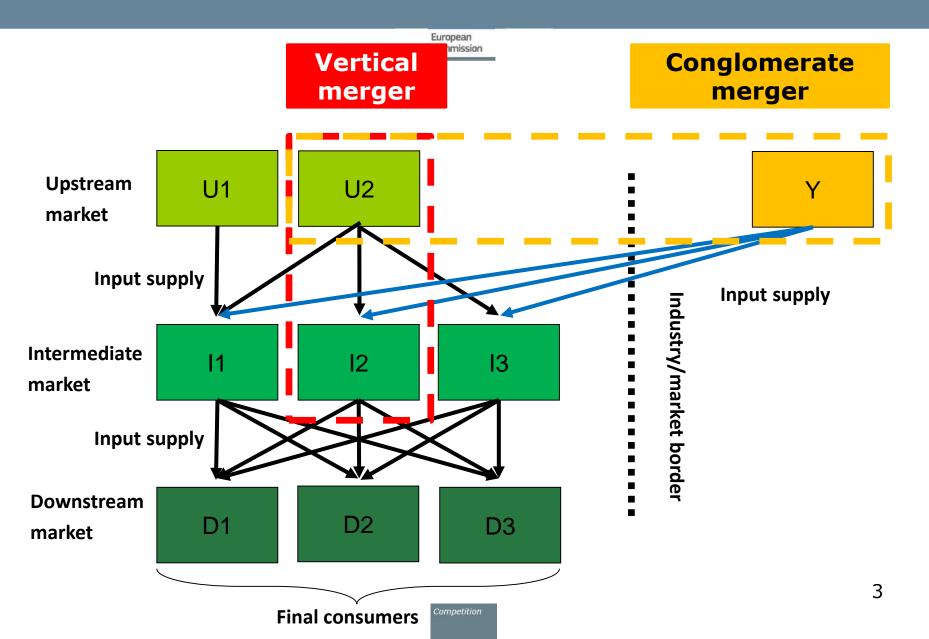


#### > Introduction

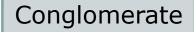
#### > Examples

- Essilor/Luxottica
- Qualcomm/NXP
- Microsoft/LinkedIn

### **Competitive landscape post merger**







# **Conglomerate mergers**

## Usually, positive effects (efficiencies)

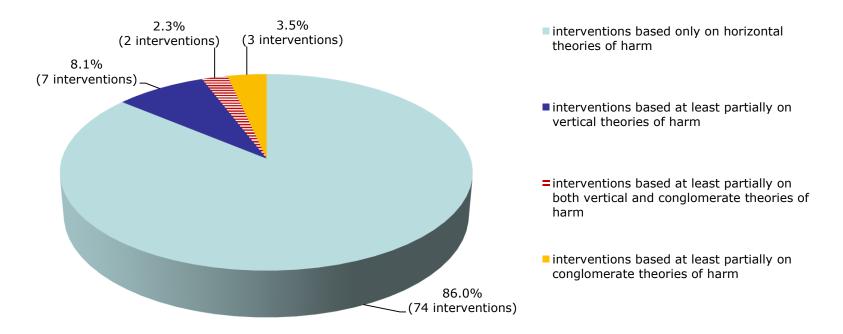
- Economies of scope (combination or bundle of products)
- One-stop-shopping for customers (lower transaction costs)

## Rarely, negative effects

- Leveraging of market power
- Foreclosure

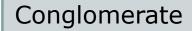


#### EC decisional practice: share of interventions based at least partially on non-horizontal theories of harm (January 2015 - August 2018)



total nº of interventions: 86





6

# Foreclosure by...

## Tying

- Purchaser of a good is required also to also purchase another good
- Technical tying/interoperability degradation vs. contractual tying

#### Pure bundling

• Products are only available jointly in fixed proportions

### **Mixed bundling**

Products are available separately, but discount for purchasing them jointly



#### Conglomerate

# **Assessing foreclosure**

#### Ability

- Significant market power in one market
- Large pool of common customers
- Legal framework and market structure

#### Incentive

- Costs of the foreclosure strategy
- Benefits of the foreclosure strategy
- Is it profitable overall?

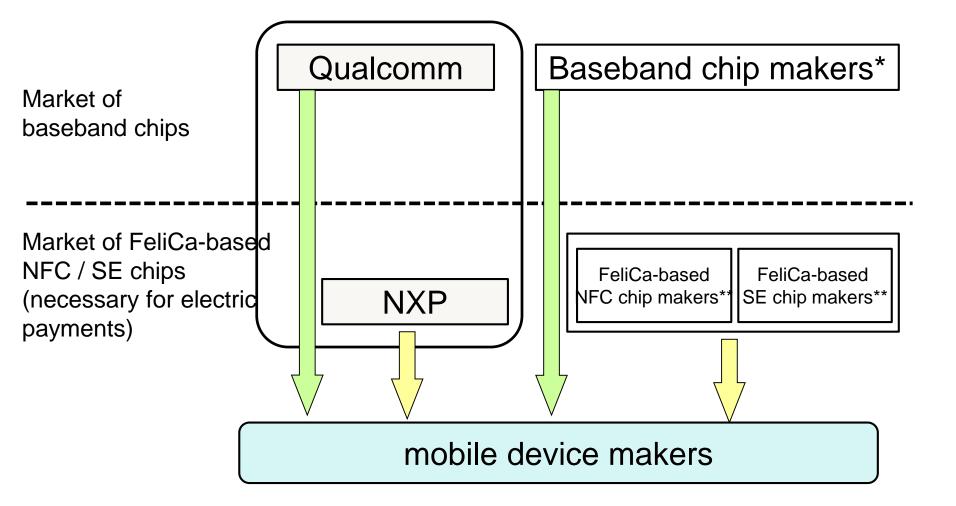
#### Impact on effective competition

- Competitive landscape
- Competitors' ability to replicate the foreclosure strategy
- Customers' purchasing behaviour



- Merger Guidelines (revised in 2011) The JFTC examines the possibility of closure or exclusivity of each market.
- In the recent cases, the point was the parties' ability and incentive for tying of goods / services.
  - > Qualcomm / NXP (2017)
  - Broadcom / Brocade (2017)
  - > Abbott Labs. / St. Jude Medical (2016)
  - ➤ Intel / Altera (2015)





\*Baseband chip makers:(e.g.:MediaTek, Samsung, HiSilicon, Intel, etc.) \*\*Felica-based NFC / SE chip makers:(e.g.: Sony, Toshiba, Samsung, Infineon(only manufacturing Felica-based SE chip.))



### Essilor/Luxottica – conglomerate foreclosure effects dismissed





- Two global leaders in the closely related industries of ophthalmic lenses and eyewear
- In-depth investigation to assess whether the merged company might be able to use its positioning vis-à-vis opticians to exclude competing suppliers from the markets, by linking sales of lenses and eyewear through practices such as bundling or tying
- Limited ability to foreclose (lack of market power) + limited incentives to engage in tying practices



# Microsoft/LinkedIn – Conglomerate foreclosure concerns of rival providers of professional social networks ("PSN")

Promotion of LinkedIn through combination with Microsoft products

Increase in LinkedIn membership and usage

Network effects in favour of LinkedIn Marginalisation of rival PSNs (e.g. XING in DE) & increase in barriers to entry

2 main forms of combination of Microsoft products with LinkedIn :

- 1. Microsoft would pre-install LinkedIn application on Windows PCs
- 2. Microsoft would <u>integrate</u> LinkedIn features into Office and start denying rival PSNs access to office APIs



#### 1. Windows pre-installation remedies

- Allow OEMs/distributors not to install LinkedIn
- No retaliation / exclusive agreents with OEMs/distributors
- Allow end user to remove LinkedIn

#### 2. Office integration remedies

- Continue to make available Office Add-in Program and APIs to competing PSNs
- Allow add-ins from other PSNs to run independently of LinkedIn
  - Allow end user to disable LinkedIn features 11

Competition



# **Questions and discussions**