

Dear Dr. Graef and Dr. Bostoen,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the Postdoctoral Researcher position in Competition Law & Digital Regulation at TILT. In this letter, I will explain why my research expertise and personal attributes make me a valuable addition to TILT.

Driven by my passion for competition law, I specialised in competition law and economics through three master's degrees, graduating with the highest distinctions. I am currently completing my PhD at the EUI, where I develop policy recommendations to improve the assessment of competition in transforming markets, or "dynamic competition" under merger control. My research shows that innovation drives competition by creating new markets and reshaping existing ones, yet enforcement often looks backwards, focusing investigations on fading rather than emerging markets. I propose how merger control can better account for these market changes and protect competition where it matters (see research proposal). I expect to have my manuscript approved in the first quarter of 2026.

I am passionate about advancing my research agenda and convinced that TILT offers the ideal environment to do so. First, the societal objective of the Faculty and TILT aligns closely with my values. I aim to improve the accuracy of assessments in current times of change in order to keep future markets open and fair for societal benefit. To reach this goal, I i) examine societal examples such as the green transition, telecommunications, and computing, alongside digital examples, and ii) propose realistic policy suggestions to improve competition law. Second, the expertise available at TILT will significantly enrich my research. Given the interdisciplinary nature of my research, I will greatly benefit from TILT's multidisciplinary structure and multicultural environment, which I believe is the best research environment. Moreover, engaging beyond the circle of the usual 'dynamic competition community' will expose my work to diverse perspectives, further strengthening its robustness.

In turn, I am confident that I can contribute valuably to TILT's research. My research aligns closely with the position's projects, as my work examines how new products and services reshape competitive dynamics and challenge existing competition law instruments. Digital platforms and AI provide clear examples of innovations that trigger market transformations, making my expertise directly relevant. Although data regulation aligns less closely with my background, I am eager to familiarise myself with it quickly. Accordingly, I am intrinsically motivated and enthusiastic to contribute to the projects. Beyond this alignment, I complement TILT by bringing a meta-level research agenda that cuts across sectors. This agenda is timely in view of multiple reforms currently underway in competition law, which creates prospects for publications and for engagement in policy discussions at DG COMP, strengthening Tilburg University's profile in the field.

Beyond research, I look forward to contributing to education activities in both Dutch and English as a way of making a social impact. At the EUI, I gained teaching experience and strengthened my ability to provide constructive feedback, skills that are important for supervising theses and contributing to TILT seminars. I have also developed strong presentation skills through numerous internal and external conferences, and my writing skills are demonstrated by multiple journal publications. I value teamwork immensely and contribute with team spirit, initiative, and strong collaborative and interpersonal skills that enable me to easily connect and work with colleagues and students alike.

I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss my application in an interview.

Yours sincerely,  
Anouk van der Veer