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The present issue of the *Journal of Law Market & Innovation* covers some strategic topics raising from the interplay of data strategy and trade law. The theme stems from the acknowledgment of the expansion of the digital economy, driven by the extensive exchange, collection and mining of an ever-increasing volume of data, made available through the diffused and ubiquitous presence of technology.

This affects a very wide range of political, societal, economic and legal issues, and among them, global commerce, becoming both a driving force and a challenge for it.

The relationship between trade regulations and the field of big data becomes even more intricate if we consider it not only from the perspective of Data Strategies developed by different states but also from the perspective of transboundary data flow, in the prism of trade law and the related security exceptions. In this respect, the role of EU regulation and policy is pivotal and cannot be underestimated also in its dynamic with the rest of the world.

The conceptual territory covered by the issue is therefore very wide, as well as the potential practical dimension of relevance. It ranges from Digital Strategy and Trade Policy to Data Protection, from Big data in trade logistics and trade facilitation to Antitrust and Competition Law, from E-commerce and Digital Trade to Digital fairness for consumers, from Cybersecurity and Trade to protection of trade infrastructure through cybersecurity standards.

Against this backdrop, all the contributions of the special issue, though covering a wide spectrum, are inspired by the consideration of the international, supranational or transnational legal dimension and attain a considerable level of academic novelty. They build a consistent thread of analysis from general to particular and consist of a coherent proposition of the general topic.

The first contribution by Olesia Shmarakova develops a comparative analysis of the different data strategies along different European Jurisdictions, and in particular EU, UK and Russia. The topic of data governance and policy is indeed a strategic starting point which exerts a strong impact on digital markets and the policy options are related to the balance of interests of at least three categories of subjects, namely states, businesses and individuals.

The second contribution by Elisabetta Nunziante streamlines the issue of data governance in the European Data Strategy, as a factor securing data flows, reducing data

monopolies and fostering the development of new services. The original case study is that of data collected by agricultural technologies, whose secondary use can improve new services and support the green transition, by reducing carbon footprints, optimizing energy consumption and streamlining - among other things - supply chain, pesticides use and water consumption.

The third contribution by Richa Jain introduces the seminal topic of big data and competition law addressing it in a systemic dimension, stemming from the consideration that data accumulation, though a powerful tool for enhancing competitiveness of businesses, entails relevant anti-competitive concerns.

The fourth contribution by Arora Pallavi and Jyotsna Manohar again focuses on competition laws, but from the perspective of enforcement. In light of the growing complexities of data-driven digital markets, traditional *ex-post* competition laws are considered as often insufficient, and this prompts many jurisdictions to adopt *ex-ante* regulatory frameworks. For this reason, the compatibility of *ex-ante* competition regulations, such as the European Union's Digital Markets Act (DMA), with the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), is investigated, with a particular focus on the potential violation of national treatment and most-favoured-nation (MFN) obligations.

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