Yann Guthmann appointed head of new Digital Economy Unit

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Last January, the *Autorité de la concurrence* announced the creation of its digital economy unit. The mission of this specialised unit, which reports directly to the General Rapporteur, is to develop in-depth expertise on all digital subjects, collaborate on investigations into anticompetitive practices in the digital economy and contribute to studies on new issues related to developments in digital technology, such as the current fintech study. The *Autorité*, which received applications from many excellent candidates to head the unit, has chosen a person who is both experienced in competition law and has the technical skills to develop new tools using algorithms and data sciences.

Yann Guthmann, X Ensae, a former lecturer in telecoms economics who has held positions at the French Telecommunications and Posts Regulator (Arcep), *Autorité de la concurrence* and the *Autorité de la concurrence de la Nouvelle-Calédonie*, has just been appointed to head the unit.

He will start on 14 September 2020 and is currently leading the recruitment of staff for the unit, including data scientists.

After graduating in 2010 from the Ecole Polytechnique and the Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique (ENSAE), Yann Guthmann headed the Cost and Tariffs unit at Arcep's Economic Affairs and Foresight Directorate between 2010 and 2016. His work included supervising the modelling of fibre deployment, television broadcasting and the mobile phone service pricing index, and the deployment of Arcep's geographic information system

He then joined the *Autorité de la concurrence* as rapporteur (case officer) in the Regulated Professions Unit. He has participated in the investigation of several

opinions and decisions related to the regulated legal professions (notaries, court bailiffs, judicial auctioneers and building surveyors) and is certified in computer forensics. As part of his work, he has developed data processing automation tools enabling the *Autorité* to fulfil its missions involving the regulated professions.

At the same time, Yann Guthmann has been a lecturer in specialized masters courses at the University of Montpellier I (2012-2016) and Université Paris-Dauphine (2014-2016) and at the Ecole supérieure d'électricité (2018). His lectures focused on the regulation and economics of digital networks. Seconded to the *Autorité de la concurrence de la Nouvelle-Calédonie* since 2019, he has worked on various litigation files, requests for opinions and merger control operations.

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about the digital economy unit

See Press release of 9 January 2020

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