



CALL FOR PAPERS

“Economics and Sustainability” Workshop

Valuation methods for environmental
benefits and harms: challenges
and applications in competition analysis

The *Autorité de la concurrence* is pleased to invite submissions for a workshop on “Economics and Sustainability”, to be held in Paris in late September 2026. The workshop will bring together researchers and practitioners specialising in environmental economics, industrial economics and competition law.

Submission types

The workshop welcomes academic papers (theoretical or empirical), ongoing research, methodological notes and applied case studies, including work arising from collaborations with public institutions.

The organisers are especially interested in submissions that analyse the extent to which the proposed methods meet the requirements of competition law enforcement, in particular with regard to: (i) operational applicability; (ii) integration into the methodological framework of competition analysis; and (iii) evidentiary robustness.

Submission guidelines

Authors are invited to submit an abstract (2-3 pages) or full paper clearly setting out the research question, methodology, main findings and implications for economic or competition analysis.

Submissions may be written in French or English.

Presentations will be delivered in French or English.

Publication

With the authors' agreement, selected papers may be published as articles in the workshop proceedings, on a non-exclusive basis, on the website of the *Autorité de la concurrence*.

Key dates (indicative)

Submission deadline: 5 July 2026

Notification to authors: 31 July 2026

Workshop date: late September 2026

Organisation and contact

The workshop is organised by the *Autorité de la concurrence*, in collaboration with researchers and practitioners specialising in environmental economics, industrial economics and competition law.

For any questions, please contact: sustainability.workshop@autoritedelaconcurrence.fr

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Environmental considerations have become increasingly integral to the economic analysis underpinning public policy, investment decisions and corporate strategy. For competition authorities, such considerations are relevant in both antitrust enforcement and merger control, as reflected in the ongoing revision of the EU Merger Guidelines. In certain cases, their assessment raises methodological questions, including the valuation of environmental benefits and harms in the absence of established or objective reference values, the definition of appropriate time horizons and scope, and the treatment of uncertainty, prompting competition authorities to reflect on how best to incorporate environmental considerations into their analyses. A key challenge is the development and application of robust analytical tools to ensure a rigorous assessment of environmental benefits and harms.

Methods for valuing environmental efficiency gains – both standard economic approaches (e.g. stated preferences and market prices) and more heterodox methodological frameworks (e.g. ecosystem service valuation) – offer a rich analytical toolkit, whose interaction with the traditional tools of competition law and economics warrants in-depth examination.

Beyond the theoretical challenges of valuation, the assessment of environmental benefits and harms raises a number of operational issues for competition law, including: (i) the evidential weight of the estimation methods used; (ii) the treatment of uncertainty surrounding the realisation of gains; (iii) the determination of the relevant time horizon and discounting approach; and (iv) the consideration of potential redistributive effects across affected consumers.

To address the methodological and operational challenges identified above, the *Autorité de la concurrence* is organising an academic workshop bringing together researchers, practitioners and institutional stakeholders to discuss methods for valuing environmental benefits and harms, with particular emphasis on their applicability to competition analysis.

Topics

Potential topics for submissions include, but are not limited to:

1. Environmental valuation methods

- Monetary valuation of environmental externalities (harms, avoided costs, environmental benefits, etc.).
- Methods based on market prices, revealed preferences and stated preferences (WTP, choice experiments, benefit transfer, etc.).
- Consideration of ecological scarcity, uncertainty and dynamic effects in valuation.
- External validation and/or robustness of valuation methods.

2. Analytical frameworks and decision-support tools

- Ecosystem service valuation and associated conceptual frameworks (e.g. Nature's Contributions to People).
- Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) incorporating environmental impacts.
- Life cycle assessment (LCA) and monetised LCA.
- Cost-effectiveness analysis and trade-offs between environmental and economic objectives.
- Multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) methods and alignment with non-monetary indicators.

3. Applications to competition analysis: lessons learned and case studies

- Integration of environmental benefits and harms in the assessment of anticompetitive practices and informal guidance.
- Assessment of environmental efficiency gains in merger control.

