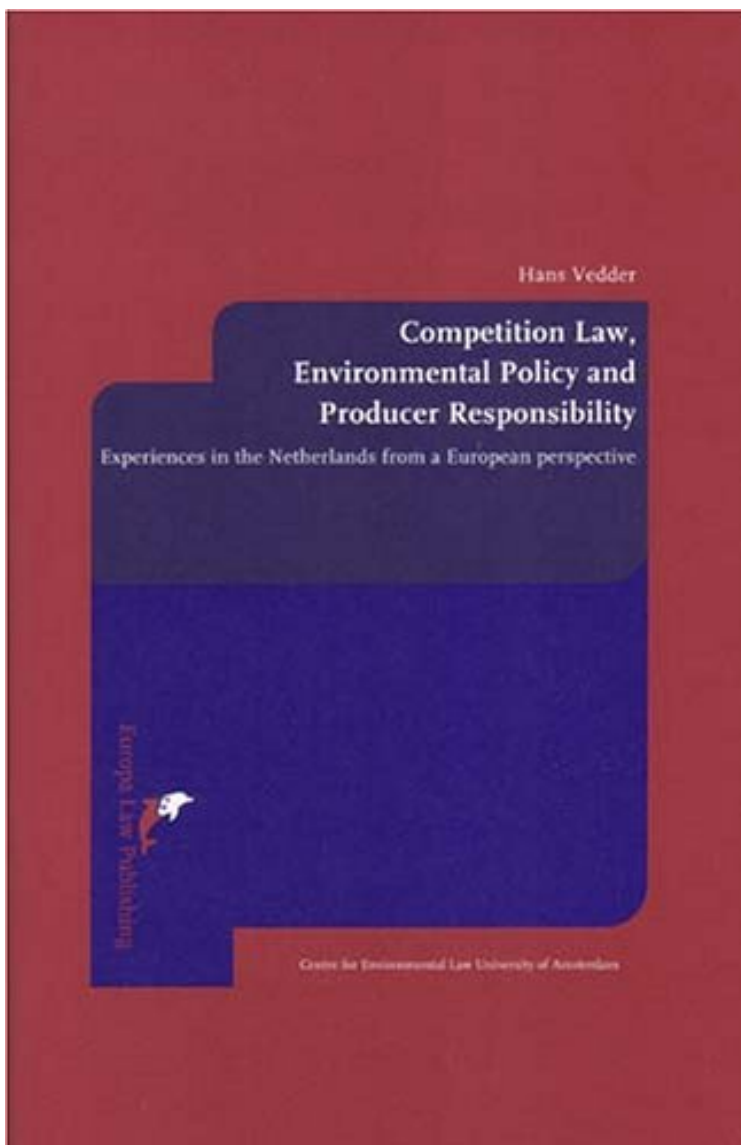


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# Competition Law, Environmental Policy and Producer Responsibility: Experiences in the Netherlands from a European Perspective

*Hans Vedder*

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## Netherlands from a European Perspective:

The proposed Directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment envisages a producer responsibility. This means that producers and importers will be made responsible for the collection and recycling of these products once they have reached the end of their life. Similar legislation in the Netherlands has resulted in a collective producer responsibility organisation funded by a disposal fee. The establishment of such collective organisations is encouraged by environmental legislation. However, competition law is critical of such co-operation particularly with regard to the disposal fee that is to be passed on to consumers. This study examines the environmental and competition law applicable to producer responsibility organisations. In this regard, the experiences in the Netherlands and a number of other European countries have been studied. It comes to the conclusion that competition law and environmental law may not pull in the same direction. The study suggests a number of possible solutions for the conflict between environmental and competition law in this field. About the author: Hans Vedder (1974) graduated from the University of Groningen in 1997. From 1998 to 2001 he worked as a researcher with the Centre for Environmental Law of the University of Amsterdam. Since 2001 he is lecturer in European law with the University of Groningen. He has published several articles and chapters in books on various aspects of competition and environmental law.