

## **INGE BERNAERTS**

Head of Unit, Internal Market II: Wholesale markets, electricity & gas (B2), DG ENER, European Commission

Inge Bernaerts obtained her law degree summa cum laude from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and a Masters in European Law magna cum laude from the Universität des Saarlandes. From 1996 to 2003, she was a member of the Brussels bar where she practiced European competition law with Stibbe Simont Monahan Duhot and then Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, two leading international law firms. In parallel she was teaching seminars on European law as Assistant to Professor Koen Lenaerts at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

In 2003, Inge Bernaerts joined the European Commission. She worked for 7 years in the Competition Directorate General, first in the field of telecommunications and broadcasting where she handled antitrust and State aid cases and was closely involved in the shaping and application of the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications services, and later as Assistant to the Director General for competition. In the latter capacity she advised the Director General on merger and antitrust policy and enforcement, helped ensuring soundness and consistency in the enforcement decisions of the European Commission under merger and antitrust law and coordinated the contacts between the services of the Competition Directorate General and Commissioner Kroes and her Cabinet.

In 2010, Inge Bernaerts joined the Energy Directorate General. In July of that year she was appointed as Head of Unit for Internal Market II: Wholesale markets, electricity & gas and is in charge of the implementation of the internal energy market legislation in the EU.

Inge Bernaerts has published and lectured extensively on a broad range of European law and policy issues, with a particular emphasis on market functioning and regulation of network industries. She is Belgian and speaks Dutch, English, French and German.