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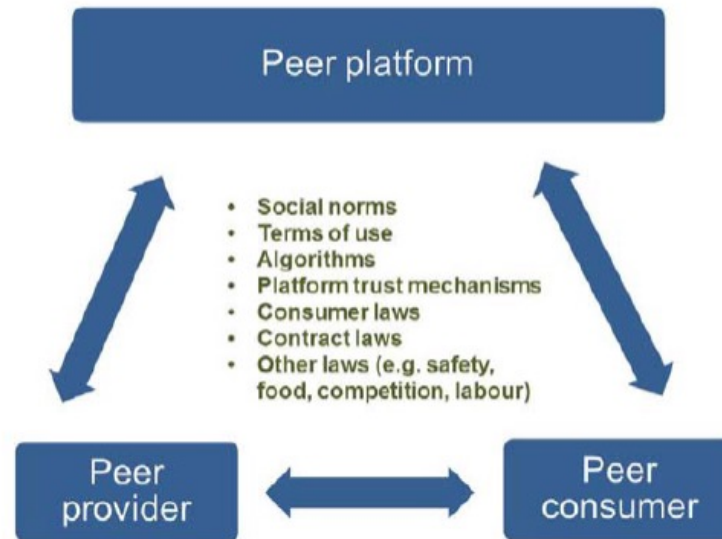
EU Law of Cooperative Platforms

Where Do We Stand?
Where Shall We Go?

Introduction

(Digital) platform = marketplace = “Peer platform markets” = exchange of goods and services between peers through the Internet

Figure 1. Different layers of rule-making on peer platforms



Source: OECD (2016), "Protecting Consumers In Peer Platform Markets: Exploring The Issues", OECD Digital Economy Papers, No. 253, OECD Publishing, Paris, p. 11



Common Critics against Platforms

- Limited protection of consumers
- Compromise of personal information or privacy
- Blurred liability of online platforms towards users
- Infringements of Competition Law and Labor Law
- Environmental impact

Definition of Cooperative Platforms

European Economic and Social Committee, Opinion on non-standard employment and platform cooperatives No. CCMI/182 of March 25, 2021, paragraph 3.6 and 3.7:

3 criteria

1. Democratically governed in a way that involves participating stakeholders
2. Organizes production and exchange of goods and services through an IT infrastructure
3. Belongs to and governed by workers, users and other stakeholders



Core Matters of this Presentation

1. Could cooperative platforms really help to solve the main problems raised by digital platforms?
2. Which EU legal framework to propose for cooperative platforms?



I. About the Fitness of Cooperative Platforms to Address the Legal Challenges of Platform Economy

1.1. Pros

- Less extensive public regulation than investor-owned firms
- Contribution to public interest
- Economic dynamization of local communities
- Stimulation of business launching
- Potential combination of both the advantages of independent work and employment



1.2. Cons

- Potential increase in number and intensity of conflicts
- Volunteerism may lead to amateurism
- Harsh financing leads to work overload
- Risk of fragmentation of the internal market by applying domestic law of cooperatives



II. Proposal of an EU Legal Framework for Cooperative Platforms

2.1. Addressing the Identified Weaknesses of Cooperative Platforms

- Harmonization of domestic law of cooperative platforms in the EU Digital Market
- Arbitration rules to end internal conflicts between different categories of stakeholders
- Secured State aids for the whole Social and Solidarity Economy



2.2. SSE and the Digital Economy: a Road to Travel

Potentiality of Digital SSE:

- Creative, convenient and responsive solutions to social issues
- New governance tools to improve processes, participation and empowerment of stakeholders



THANK YOU!