Twenty-First Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy Room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva 5-7 July 2023

Interaction between Competition and Industrial Policies

Presentation

Prof. William Kovacic

George Washington University

Washington, D.C.

This material has been reproduced in the language and form as it was provided. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

Interaction Between Competition and Industrial Policies

William E. Kovacic
George Washington Law School
wkovacic@law.gwu.edu
UNCTAD 21st IGE Session
Geneva, 6 July 2023

This Morning's Topic

- How Can Competition Authorities
 Help Governments Better Deal with
 Recent Changes in the Economy?
 - –Economic crisis
 - -Sustainable development
 - Digitisation

Increased Public Expenditures for Recovery and Economic Development

Competition Policy: Public Contracts, Grants,
Subsidies

The Funding Downpour: The UNCTAD Secretariat Background Note

• ". . . Governments have taken an active role not only in reducing the short-term economic damage from the pandemic, but also in promoting a strong, sustainable and inclusive long-term recovery. This trend can also be seen in the expansion of subsidies and State Aid by Governments "

Public Procurement

- Global Scourge: Collusion/Corruption
- Worthy of Priority Treatment
- Even Small Improvements Matter:
 - -Transportation infrastructure
 - -Education
 - -Halth care

Competition Policy for Procurement

- Prosecute Cartels/Corruption
- Reduce Artificial Barriers to Entry
 - Major economic and social dividends
- Cooperation
 - Competition, procurement, anticorruption

Spend Subsidies Wisely

Competition Agency as Advisor and Advocate

Competition Policy for Subsidies

- Spend to Increase Competition
- Promote Business Entry
 - —Government as venture capitalist
 - Grants, competitions, prizes: e.g.,
 green strategies and technologies
- Cooperation: Competition Agencies, Legislators, Ministries

Digitisation

Informing and Guiding Policy Adjustments

Competition Agency Strengths

- Microeconomic Policy Capability
 - —Data collection
 - -Technical analysis
- Industry Knowledge
- Broad Economic Perspective
- Trusted Advisor to Public Bodies

Law Enforcement-Plus: Means

- Research Agenda
 - —Existing foundations/new contributions
- Technical Teams: Compare UK CMA
- Public Consultations
- Accelerate Learning
 - Academic hubs
 - —Other agencies: Common projects