



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

13th Session, 8 to 10 July 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

Roundtable on “Priority setting and resource allocation as a tool for agency effectiveness”¹

Tuesday, 9 July 2013 (10:00 - 13:00)
Palais des Nations, Room XVIII (First Floor)

Priority setting and resource use can play an important role in the performance and effectiveness of a competition agency's interventions. Because of the different institutional setting and the way competition agencies are structured, strategic planning and its setting of priorities may be a big challenge for young competition agencies.

The priorities of young competition agencies may be quite different from those of mature competition agencies. However, there is a risk of asking too much from young competition agencies, when other policy instruments may be the most appropriate tools to achieve certain ends. This strengthens the case for narrow priority setting and evaluation. Moreover, priority choices are, to an important extend, a function of the competition law objectives, and the country history, legal political and economic culture.

Replies to UNCTAD questionnaire indicate that competition agencies should adopt a flexible approach to setting priorities by focusing on these objectives that can be achieved within existing human and financial resources. These may include competition advocacy, advisory opinions to government and regulators on the benefits of competition policy and coherence; working together with public procurement agencies to prevent and prosecute bid-rigging. In later stages the competition agency may focus on complex cases including cartels, monopolization and anti-competitive mergers.

In view of the above panellist and delegates wishing to speak on this topic may wish to organize their presentations around the following questions :

(a) Regardless of the legal statute of a competition agency, is there a universal standard to devise the appropriate way by which a competition agency should set its priorities and allocate its resources? If so, what is your experience? Is it effective?

(b) What type of technical assistance is needed to assist young competition agencies in developing and economies in transition countries setting their priorities and allocate their resource in order to enhance their performance and effectiveness? What can UNCTAD and other international organizations and the INC do in this area? What can young competition agencies learn from each other and from more mature competition authorities in setting up their priorities and allocating their resources?

The Round table will be divided in two parts. Part one will address the experience and challenges facing young competition agencies in using priorities setting and resources allocation as a tool to enhance the effectiveness of their work. Part two will address experiences advanced competition agencies.

¹ UNCTAD (2012), Priority setting and resource allocation as a tool for agency effectiveness, Note by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/C.I/CLP/20). http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ciclpd20_en.pdf

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WORK PROGRAMME

10:00 to 10:10

Presentation by UNCTAD Secretariat

10:10 to 11:15

Part I Experience and challenges facing young competition agencies

- Francisco Marcos, Professor of Law at Madrid Business School
- Jānis Račko, CC Latvia
- Sylvann Aquilina Zahra, MCAA. Malta
- Muhammad Nawi Messi, KPPU Indonesia

11:15 to 12:15

Part II : Best practices from mature competition agencies

- Felipe Irrarrázabal, FNE Chile
- Russell Damtoft, USFTC
- Professor F. Jenny, OECD

12:15 to 13:00

Debate and conclusions*

* Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Yves Kenfack (yves.kenfack@unctad.org or Pierre Horna (pierre.horna@unctad.org).