



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM
Amsterdam Center for Law & Economics

WORKSHOP PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

The Amsterdam Center for Law & Economics (ACLE) at the University of Amsterdam organizes its third annual Competition & Regulation Meeting. The topic of the workshop is:

Strategic Firm-Authority Interaction in Antitrust, Merger Control and Regulation

Friday, March 16, 2007
University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Keynote Speakers

R. Preston McAfee (California Institute of Technology)
Stephen Calkins (Wayne State University School of Law)

The stakes in competition policy are high and the parties involved are sophisticated players. Effective competition policy requires both good law-making and vigilant enforcement. Firms react strategically to the legislative process, the avenues through which competition laws are enforced and the competition authorities' behavior. Private parties might, for example, try and abuse competition law to hassle their competitors. They may dispute contracts as prejudiced by an antitrust infringement, try to elicit costly antitrust investigations or initiate frivolous antitrust claims in attempts to encourage market exit or extort antitrust damage settlements. Hard core cartels are involved in a game of hide and seek with the enforcement agencies with ever more advanced detection methods and clever ways to fly below the radar. Monopolization or abuse of dominance can be disguised as good competition according to innovative business models. Companies subject to (hostile) takeover may try to influence merger control. Likewise, regulated industries may lobby for favorable rules and treatment.

Competition authorities and regulatory agencies need to be aware of these strategic dimensions of their oversight role. They must protect the competition laws and regulations from being abused by setting the right priorities in enforcement. The game is necessarily one of asymmetric information and application of unequal resources. Economic theory and legal studies each provide elements for insights into how it is played.

The third annual ACLE Competition & Regulation Meeting provides a platform to address these phenomena in order to inform enforcement. The perspective of strategic firm-competition agency interactions in competition law enforcement is central. Economic theory and competition law develop alongside in their understanding of these issues. Institutional settings as well as individual incentives to enforce the laws are analyzed in order to increase deterrence and achieve compliance with the laws. The workshop wants to raise awareness of these issues and bring together established insights as well as ongoing research. Conclusions may be implemented when competition authorities define their course of action and set their agenda for programs that enhance sound competitive behaviour.

The workshop will be a full-day event with invited key-note speakers and parallel contributed paper sessions. Lunch, refreshments and closing drinks will be provided.

Call for Papers

ACLE invites academic scholars, private practitioners and officials from competition authorities to submit their work (in progress) on the workshop topic to be considered for inclusion in the contributed paper sessions. We welcome all original research, in law, economics, or both, be it descriptive, theoretical or empirical that is related to the workshop topic. Please do appreciate the specialized focus of the workshop explained in the introductory text above.

Submissions for inclusion in the program (full papers or abstracts) can be sent – with electronic and regular corresponding author address information – either by email to:

ACLE@uva.nl

or in two-fold hard-copy, plus an included PDF on disc or CD-ROM to:

ACLE Office
Mrs. Irene Wamelink
University of Amsterdam
Roetersstraat 11
1018 WB Amsterdam
The Netherlands

The deadline for submission is 1 February 2007. Decisions on acceptance to the program will be communicated by mid February 2007.

The scientific program committee, which consists of Kati Cseres, Maarten Pieter Schinkel (chair), Jeroen van de Ven and Floris Vogelaar, will produce a full day program based on the response to this call.

The ACLE website, <http://strategicantitrust.acle.nl> will be updated regularly with information on the workshop, such as the preliminary program, registration, fees, and suggestions for accommodation in Amsterdam.

The Annual C&R Meetings

The Competition & Regulation meetings are a series of annual workshops that focus on topics in competition law enforcement and regulation. Around a program of key-note speakers, (young) scholars discuss submitted academic papers in parallel sessions. The leading idea is to inform European competition policy. The aim is to attract roughly 150 specialized participants from academia, government antitrust agencies, law and consulting firms to create the optimal conditions for a high level exchange of views.

The **first C&R Meeting, in February 2005**, titled *Remedies and Sanctions in Competition Policy: Economic and Legal Implications of the Tendency to Criminalize Antitrust Enforcement in the EU Member States*, was on the trend to criminalize antitrust law in Europe. Key-note speakers included Claus-Dieter Ehlermann, William Kovacic, Eleanor Fox, Giancarlo Spagnolo, Wouter Wils and Bruce Lyons. There were in total eight parallel session meetings. A book with the best efforts of this opening event of the ACLE was recently published by Edward Elgar. For more information, see <http://remediesconf.acle.nl>

The **second C&R Meeting, in March 2006** was on *Forensic Economics in Competition Law Enforcement*. Key-note speakers included Franklin Fisher, Andrew I. Gavil and John Connor. In total eight parallel sessions showed a wide variety of scholarly contributions by scholars

from a wide array of backgrounds. A special issue of the *Journal of Competition Law and Economics* on the topic is forthcoming. For more information, see <http://forensics.acle.nl>



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