



First Expert Group Workshop on
Competition Policy and the Trade System
4-5 March 2015 – Talloires, France

Agenda

BY INVITATION ONLY

At this first of two (or potentially three) in-person meetings of the E15 Expert Group on Competition Policy and the Trade System, experts will discuss the current state of affairs related to competition policy and the international trade system. They will also go into depth on a selection of topics identified during the Scoping Meeting at the end of 2014.

An introductory presentation of the overview paper will be made by the Theme Leader at the start of the meeting. In-depth discussions of specific topics will then take place, informed by introductory presentations by various group members. In a final session, the group will discuss which outstanding issues to address next.

A working dinner will be organised during the evening of 4 March.

Wednesday 4 March

9:15 – 9:30

Welcome Remarks

- Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz (ICTSD)
- Sean Doherty (World Economic Forum)
- Mario Mariniello (Bruegel – Knowledge Partner)

9:30 – 10:15

Introduction of the E15 Expert Group on Competition Policy and the Trade System

- Eduardo Pérez Motta (Agon Economics Law and Strategy – Theme Leader)
- Harsha Vardhana Singh (ICTSD – Convener)
- Katarina Hrubá and Cristian Rodríguez Chiffelle (World Economic Forum – Group Managers)

The Theme Leader introduces the core objectives, deliverables and aspirations of the E15 Expert Group on Competition Policy and the Trade System. The Convener elaborates on the E15 Initiative as such and places the E15 Expert Group on Competition Policy in this broader context. Group Managers introduce the core team leading the work of the Expert Group and invite all the participants of the meeting to briefly introduce themselves.

10:15 – 11:30

State of play

- Eduardo Pérez Motta (Agon Economics Law and Strategy – Theme Leader)

The Theme Leader presents his overview paper highlighting the most recent developments and challenges in the competition policy domain which are of greatest relevance to the global trade. This presentation will kick-off a broader discussion by the full group, allowing the participants to react to the issues raised and articulate topics they believe might have been omitted. The purpose of the session is to set the context for the discussions to follow and to elaborate on the largest challenges at the intersection and trade and competition policy areas. The Theme Leader will moderate this session and chair the meeting going forward.

- 11:30 – 11:45 **Coffee/Tea**
- 11:45 – 13:45 **Trade Impact of Competition Policies Seeking Non-Competition Goals and Trade Effects of Political Interference in Competition Law Enforcement**
 - Jorge Padilla (Compass Lexecon Europe)
 - Damien Neven (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies)
 - Mario Mariniello (Bruegel)
- During this session, main outlines and core arguments underpinning two think pieces will be presented. Jorge Padilla will explore the implications of competition policies with non-competition goals (such as the protection of domestic SMEs and employment or the improvement of the competitive position of domestic firms operating in global markets) on international trade and investment flows. The think piece by Damien Neven and Mario Mariniello will further elaborate on the effects of political interference in the enforcement process on foreign firms' business activity, exports and investment location decisions, taking into consideration the distortive effect on the competitive dynamics between foreign and home industries. The presentations will be followed by a full-group discussion of the topics.*
- 13:45 – 14:45 **Light Lunch**
- 14:45 – 16:00 **Cartelisation in Global Markets for Primary Commodities: Focus on Natural Rubber and Banana**
 - Pradeep S. Mehta (CUTS International)
- Pradeep Mehta will present the main outline and core arguments underpinning his think piece which addresses the impact of cartelization in primary commodity markets, using two illustrative case studies from the natural rubber and banana markets. The presentation will be followed by a full-group discussion of the topic.*
- 16:00 – 16:15 **Coffee/Tea**
- 16:15 – 18:00 **Concluding Discussion and Reflections**
 - Chair: Eduardo Pérez Motta (Agon Economics Law and Strategy – Theme Leader)
- 19:00 – 22:00 **Reception and dinner**

Thursday 5 March

- 9:00 – 10:15 **The WTO and Competition Policy**
 - Robert Anderson (WTO)
- The Competition Policy Scoping Meeting (taking place at the end of 2014) identified the need to develop an analysis which would elaborate on the various facets of competition policy currently addressed through different WTO frameworks. The analysis should also shed light on areas of competition policy of relevance to the trade agenda that have not been accounted for and deserve greater attention at the multilateral level. Robert Anderson will present the main outline and core arguments underpinning his think piece which addresses the issues articulated above. The presentation will be followed by a full-group discussion of the topic.*
- 10:15 – 11:30 **Competition Policy in Bi- and Pluri-Lateral Free Trade Agreements**
 - François-Charles Lapr v te (Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP)
- Fran ois-Charles Lapr v te will present the main outline and core arguments underpinning his think piece which addresses the existing interactions between international trade policies and competition policy in the context of bi- and pluri-lateral free trade agreements in force or under negotiation. The analysis will examine the extent to which international trade instruments already cover competition issues, identify*

overall trends and best practices as well as areas where further progress could be made towards improving the integration of competition and trade law. The presentation will be followed by a full-group discussion of the topic.

11:30 – 11:45 **Coffee/Tea**

11:45 – 13:00 **Next Steps**

- Chair: Eduardo Pérez Motta (Agon Economics Law and Strategy – Theme Leader)

The final session of the meeting will allow participants to offer final comments and raise any outstanding issues. It will solicit feedback on what other issues should be focused on in the second round of think pieces to be commissioned after the meeting. Finally, the Theme Leader will summarize the main take-aways from the two days and briefly outline the next steps to prepare the group for the second Expert Group meeting in May or June 2015.