

Workshop on Cartel screening in the digital era

 30 January 2018  9:30 – 18:00

 Registration by email to:
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 Paris, OECD Conference Centre - Room CC12
or distant participation by WEBEX

 Documentation: oe.cd/wcsde

AGENDA

In 2013, the OECD Competition Committee held a Roundtable on “*Ex-officio cartel investigations and the use of screens to detect cartels*”¹ to discuss the role of pro-active cartel detection measures in effective cartel detection and deterrence. The roundtable discussion included a review of the main features of structural and behavioural screens. The Roundtable concluded that competition agencies should consider complementing their reactive detection measures (amnesty/leniency programmes) by pro-actively seeking out cartels and launching ex officio investigations against suspicious conducts by companies. In order to do so, empirical screens may play a prominent role in deciding which markets or industries are more likely to be prone to cartel behaviour, and in some cases they can also flag possible cartel behaviour that would deserve closer scrutiny.

The increased availability of data – especially publicly available data and e-procurement data – has opened up new possibilities in pro-active cartel detection, especially in testing screens empirically. The advances in data analytics naturally pave the way for competition authorities to rely on new detection tools and methodologies to improve enforcement through the use of digital technologies. In view of these developments, the OECD is organising an interactive one-day workshop on cartel screening in the digital era with the aim of providing an insight into the latest developments on screening methods along with a unique opportunity for agencies to share their experiences.

The workshop will include two focus areas: (I) the latest developments in cartel screens proposed by the economic literature and (II) agency experiences with the application of structural and behavioural screens.

9:30 – 9:45 | Welcome and opening remarks from Antonio Gomes, Head of the OECD Competition Division

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Keynote speaker: Robert Porter (William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Economics, Northwestern University)

Cartel screening: The first part of the workshop will describe the main features of structural and behavioural screens; provide an overview of the main theories on cartel screens; focus on the effective screen design and the recent developments in screening techniques.

9:45 – 10:30 | **Presentation by the keynote speaker**

- Main types of screening approaches and recent developments in screening techniques
- Challenges in screen design and implementation

10:30 – 11:00 | Q&A on the presentation

11:00 – 11:15 | **Coffee break**

¹ OECD (2013), Roundtable on “*Ex-officio cartel investigations and the use of screens to detect cartels*” www.oecd.org/competition/exofficio-cartel-investigations.htm

AGENCIES CASE STUDIES

Moderator: Antonio Capobianco (OECD Secretariat)

Agency experience: The workshop will proceed with the practical implementation of screens along with the related challenges and risks in different countries. It will also cover how publicly available data and e-procurement data can be used for screening and the related pitfalls.

Key questions:

- How can screens be implemented effectively?
- What are the main challenges and risks associated with the implementation of screens?
- What are the data requirements? How can large data sets (e.g. publicly available data or e-procurement data) be used to enhance the reliability of screens?

11:15 – 12:15 **Case study by the Competition and Markets Authority, the United Kingdom**

- Challenges and lessons learned from developing a screening tool
- Packaging and distribution of the tool for wider use
- Demonstration on how the tool works on a dummy data set

12:15 – 12:45 Q&A on the case study

12:45 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 – 15:00 **Case study by the Conselho Administrativo de Defesa Econômica, (CADE), Brazil**

- Insight into the 'Brain Project', technical (IT) as well as practical elements of screening and data mining
- Case simulations - the paths from screens to real cases

15:00 – 15:30 Q&A on the case study

15:30 – 15:45 **Coffee break**

15:45 – 16:45 **Case study by the Wettbewerbskommission (WEKO), Switzerland**

- Simple screens applied by WEKO
- Partial screening and bid rotation test

16:45 – 17:15 Q&A on the case study

CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING REMARKS

17:15 – 17:45 **Conclusion by the Keynote speaker and the Moderator**

- Key takeaways from agency experience
- Practical challenges in collecting data and implementing advanced screening technics
- Avenues for future work using big data and experience from other fields

17:45 – 18:00 **Closing remarks by the Head of the Competition Division**