

BUSINESSEUROPE



Competition policy and consumer welfare

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **A few words on BUSINESSEUROPE**
- **Today's subject: what benefits does competition bring?**
- **How to get there in practice? 3 key aspects:**
 1. **Competition and public services – State aid**
 2. **Effective public enforcement - prevention and compliance**
 3. **When things go wrong – compensation!**
- **Conclusion**

What is BUSINESSEUROPE?



- ✓ The Confederation of European business
- ✓ Representing **+20 million companies**
- ✓ European Social Partner

Mission

- ✓ „Actively promote and represent business in Europe“
- ✓ „Advocate a favourable and competitive business environment to foster sustainable economic growth“

Purpose

- ✓ Create a business-friendly environment in Europe

Pillars

- ✓ Members FIRST
- ✓ Staff: 45
- ✓ Supporting network of 45 companies
- ✓ Alliance for a Competitive European Industry
- ✓ European Employers Network

Competition benefits to consumers

- The best incentive for business efficiency
 - Innovative products and services
 - Larger choice, lower prices, higher quality
- Positive effects on the economy
 - More open markets
 - More jobs

How to get there? (1)

1. Apply competition to public services / SGEI

- Consumers as SGEI users
- Consumers as taxpayers
- Efficient SGEI for consumers and business
- Effective enforcement of State aid rules
- Public / private provision: competitive neutrality

How to get there? (2)

2. Effective Public Enforcement

- European business condemns antitrust breaches
- Public authorities represent the public interest
- No to private enforcement (risk of abuses)
- Likelihood to be caught is the best deterrent
- Encourage compliance efforts!

How to get there? (3)

3. Effective redress

- Adequate redress in consumers & companies' interest
- A real chance of obtaining compensation, in reasonable time
- Judicial group action not the right instrument
- Look for solutions likely to deliver real benefits in practice
- Basic criteria → simple, cheap and fast
- Main avenue → Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Conclusion

- Open the provision of public services to competition
- Ensure strong public enforcement aiming for prevention
- Exploits ADRs' unexploited potential to provide redress