

Westminster Business Forum Keynote Seminar
Reforming the UK competition regime - the impact of legislation and next steps for the
Competition and Markets Authority

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 10th September 2013

Venue: Banqueting Hall, Glaziers Hall, 9 Montague Close, London SE1 9DD



**WESTMINSTER
BUSINESS
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Lord Marland, The Prime Minister's Trade Envoy
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Assessing the impact of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill**
How is the UK's competition regime viewed internationally, and what do stakeholders and commentators perceive as its principal strengths and weaknesses? How significantly will provisions included in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act impact on the future of UK competition law and its enforcement, and what challenges are likely to arise as policymakers take forward implementation?
Professor Morten Hviid, Director, ESRC Centre for Competition Policy and Professor of Law, University of East Anglia Law School
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.00 **Making the new framework work - next steps for the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)**
What will be the key priorities for the new Competition & Markets Authority, as we approach its launch on 1st October 2013? What challenges will remain for implementing a fully operational Authority by 1st April 2014? How should this unified competition and enforcement agency contribute to the Government's wider programme of reform and recovery?
Alex Chisholm, Chief Executive Designate, Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 - 10.55 **Institutional and structural reform - challenges and opportunities**
How do businesses, consumers and legal practitioners perceive the proposed institutional transition to a unified CMA by 2014, and what principal challenges might the authority face in becoming a "world-leading competition authority"? Will businesses benefit from having one streamlined organisation to deal with in relation to competition enforcement, and to what extent do stakeholders anticipate efficiency savings and greater market certainty as a consequence? What concerns have been raised about the CMA's structure - such as the potential for institutional bias across phase 1 and phase 2 decision-making - and how might these be addressed in practice? How can industry regulators work alongside the CMA and contribute to an evolving framework - particularly in relation to sharing expertise and resources? To what extent should the CMA concern itself with supporting national consumer enforcement alongside other bodies such as Trading Standards and Citizens Advice, as envisaged by Government?
Alastair Mordaunt, Partner, Clifford Chance and Member, UK Competition Group, International Chamber of Commerce
David Black, Director of Economics, Ofwat
Oliver Adelman, News Editor, Policy and Regulatory Report (PaRR)
Andy Foster, Operations and Policy Director, Trading Standards Institute
John Colahan, Partner, Latham & Watkins
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Lord Marland, The Prime Minister's Trade Envoy
- 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 11.35 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Iain Wright MP, Shadow Minister for Competitiveness and Enterprise
- 11.35 - 12.25 **The future for the markets, mergers and anti-trust regimes - stakeholder priorities**
Perspectives on Government's wider reforms to the UK's competition regime, and next steps for implementing proposed reforms to market studies and investigations, merger cases and antitrust enforcement. How will an 'enhanced administrative approach' to the UK's anti-trust regime impact on its record of enforcing EU prohibitions of anti-competitive agreements and abuse of market dominance? Are proposed reductions to statutory time limits across markets and merger regimes attainable, and will they necessarily increase legal certainty for businesses? In what ways will proposed powers to allow the CMA to provide investigations across different markets - as well as with regard to 'public interest' if required by the Secretary of the State - influence the future of the markets regime? Will more merger investigations be undertaken as a consequence of plans to enhance the strength of enforcement in this area? Is Government right to remove the 'dishonesty' requirement from the criminal cartel offence, and will this necessarily result in more prosecutions? What uncertainties remain about identifying criminal intent in relation to business dealings with competitors under Government's current proposals?
Alan Davis, Partner, EU & Competition Group, Pinsent Masons
Pula Houghton, Director of Public Policy and Consumer Markets, Which?
Hugo Lindsay, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Virgin Media
Paul Baxter, Chief Executive, National Federation of Retail Newsagents
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Enforcement of the competition rules - next steps for reform**
The Honourable Mr Justice Barling, President, Competition Appeal Tribunal
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**
Iain Wright MP, Shadow Minister for Competitiveness and Enterprise
Marc Gammon, Producer, Westminster Business Forum