

Conference on

**Antitrust enforcement**

**in the presence of leniency programs**

**Date:** August 30 2011, 09.00-16.00

**Where:** Norwegian School of Economics, Auditorium Finn Kydland

Antitrust authorities have to allocate their resources between the three main activities cartel detection, merger control and prohibition of abuse of dominance. In many jurisdictions we have witnessed a great number of cartel cases during the last 10-15 years, and the main explanation for this development is the large increase in leniency applications. At the same time we have seen a rather limited number of cases concerning abuse of dominance (or monopolization), while the number of merger cases varies considerably between jurisdictions. At this conference we have asked academic economists as well as economists from agencies to take as a starting point the apparently large success of leniency programs and discuss various questions this raises. We are particularly concerned about whether this leads to a distorted allocation of resources between the three main activities, as well as distortion of resources spent on fighting cartels. If such distortions exist, what measures can be taken to correct for them? This, in turn, raises the question of how we should design the antitrust authorities' incentives. We would like to encourage the agencies to strike the right balance between the various activities, and also within each activity, but what would then be the best way to measure their performance and set goals to be achieved?

We start out with three academic economists, all outstanding researchers in the area of antitrust economics. They will give us an outsider's view on how antitrust authorities in principle should strike the right balance, and point to some of their main challenges. We then move on to three economists who all have a unique combination of academic background and hands-on experience from competition authorities. They discuss in more detail the problems associated with enforcement in practice and the allocation of resources between various activities.

## PROGRAM

09.00-09.30: Registration and coffee
09.30-09.40: Opening remarks by Lars Sjørgard
09.40.-10.40: Joseph E. Harrington Jr.: The Battle Against Hard Core Cartels: Measurement and Incentive Challenges
10.40-11:00: Coffee break
11.00-11.40: Maarten Pieter Schinkel: Doing deals with cartel suspects
11.40-12.30: David Ulph: Resource prioritisation
12.30-13.30: Lunch
13.30-14.10: Tommy S. Gabrielsen: Cartel policy in Norway
14.10-14.50: Peder Østbye: The law and economics of appealing non-prioritization decisions
14.50-15.10: Coffee break
15.10-15.50: Thibaud Verge: How to prioritize when the CA does not have the opportunity to “select” its cases?
15.50-16.00: Closing remarks by Christine B. Meyer

### The speakers:

- Professor Lars Sjørgard, Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics
- Professor Joseph E. Harrington Jr., Department of Economics, Johns Hopkins University, USA
- Professor Maarten Pieter Schinkel, ACLE (Amsterdam Center for Law and Economics), Amsterdam Business School, Netherlands
- Professor David Ulph, Director of SIRE (Scottish Institute for the Research in Economics), University of St. Andrews, Scotland
- Professor Tommy S. Gabrielsen, Department of Economics, University of Bergen, Norway
- Senior advisor Peder Østbye, Dept of Competition Policy, Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs, Norway
- Chief economist Thibaud Verge, Autorité de la Concurrence, France
- Director General for Competition Christine B. Meyer, the Norwegian Competition Authority, Norway

**Conference Registration:**

Registration takes place by email to [Anneliv.Scrase@snf.no](mailto:Anneliv.Scrase@snf.no)

**no later than August 10 2011**

The conference is free of charge. All participants are welcome to attend lunch.

A conference organized by SNF

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