

The Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH) and the Leipzig Graduate School of Management (HHL), organise a joint Conference

„Regulation and Competition: Who Should Benefit from Competition Policy? “

to be held in Halle (Germany) on April 21-22, 2008.

Subject

The aim of the “New Economic Approach” in European Antitrust Law is not to promote competition for its own sake but to relate it – including the respective regulation and anti-trust laws, instruments and measures – to the ultimate welfare of consumers. As a consequence, institutional arrangements building the framework of a competition and regulatory system should be revised from time to time. This conference takes a very specific perspective in addressing governmental influence in markets which very often is discretionary and often voluntaristic. Thus possible adverse effects of governmental influence cannot be hedged by standard means of risk management. In asking: “Regulation and Competition: Who Should Benefit from Competition Policy?“, we take up the issue of regulatory risk, assess it from both an economic and a business perspective, and explore potential strategic responses of companies. We focus on “physical” network industries, mostly former public monopolies, but we also take a look at “virtual” network industries, i.e. industries that rely on communication systems. Or those that are somewhat caught in-between, such as the postal service. This may include Electricity and Gas Markets, Transport Markets, and Communication Markets. From a risk-management perspective, regulatory risk challenges network-oriented firms from different sectors in a very comparable way.

They all have to overcome high sunk costs on the supply side and a distant break-even point on the demand side which necessitates fast dissemination in the building-up process and a profitable market penetration. The objective of this conference is therefore to bring the issue of regulatory risks more into focus of the debate on prudential regulation of private sector activities so that regulatory authorities may henceforth properly assess their own role as a source of risk.

The programme features, for example, Professor Marcel Boyer PhD (CIRANO and University of Montréal) and Prof Kenneth Dam, PhD (University of Chicago). The conference will be held in English and will take place at the Halle Institute for Economic Research. Admission will be made up to the capacity limit of about 50 interested persons from the science and the business community.

A conference dinner with all participants will take place on 21 April 2008 at 8 p.m. A conference fee of € 60.- includes the conference dinner and will be collected upon acknowledgement of participation.

We hope that the conference attracts your interest and are looking forward to welcoming you to Halle. If you want to participate, please send the filled-out application form using the fax-number +49 345 7753 820. For further enquiries, please contact Johannes Stephan (Johannes.Stephan@iwh-halle.de).

Location

The location of the IWH can be found under the following link:

<http://maps.google.de/maps?f=q&hl=de&q=kleine%2Bm%C3%A4rkerstra%C3%9Fe%2B8,%2Bhalle&ie=UTF8&om=1>

Hotels

The participants are expected to pay their own travelling expenses, but in the following hotels in Halle they can use special room contingents of the IWH.

- **Hotel Ankerhof:** 64,50 € per night and person with breakfast
- **Maritim Hotel :** 63 € per night and person with breakfast
- **Rotes Ross :** 69 € per night and person with breakfast
- **Dorint Hotel Charlottenhof:** 68 € per night and person with breakfast

Please contact the hotel directly using the reference 'IWH'.