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Institutions, Objectives and Priorities of the Federal Antimonopoly Service of the Russian Federation

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Russia



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Institutions, Objectives and Priorities of Competition Advocacy in Russia

**Federal Antimonopoly Service and
Ministry of Economic Development of
Russia**

Government Institutions Engaged in Competition Advocacy

FAS:

- ✦ Raising cartel awareness
- ✦ Seeking voluntary compliance
- ✦ Competition advocacy with lawmakers: “the third antitrust package”
- ✦ Media liaison
- ✦ Monitoring public procurement
- ✦ Explanations and guidelines of application of competition related legislation
- ✦ Market studies and analytical materials
- ✦ Facilitating competition climate sector and/or region wide
- ✦ Promoting equal access to essential facilities

MED:

- ❖ Setting high level competition policy goals
- ❖ Informing government and business on competition policy goals and measures
- ❖ Media liaison
- ❖ Receiving feed back
- ❖ Consulting scientific community
- ❖ Advice on regional competition policy programs

Resources

FAS:

- ✦ Participation in industry regulatory boards and tariffs commissions (railroads, energy etc.)
- ✦ Competition advocacy department (media liaison, public liaison, site maintenance)
- ✦ Analytical department (advocacy with lawmakers, market studies)
- ✦ Assistant to the Chairman (business liaison)
- ✦ Anti-cartel department (raising cartel awareness, implementation of leniency program)
- ✦ FAS web-site: www.fas.gov.ru (comprehensive information on cases, market studies, legal initiatives, meetings with stakeholders etc.)
- ✦ Other departments' involvement, if needed.

MED:

- ❖ Department of competition development (including information Policy and Communications Unit)
- ❖ "Choice, Quality, Possibilities" web-site:
www.competition.gov.ru
- ❖ "Competition Policy" bulletin

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Competition Advocacy Objectives

- Development of competition legislation (e.g. the "third antitrust package").
- Competition advocacy with other government bodies and industry regulators.
 - Achieving public policy goals by pro-competitive means (e.g. public procurement).
 - Weighting competition against other public policy priorities; assessment of cost of regulation and minimization of anti-competitive effects of regulation.
 - Seeking "quasi-competitive" effects where possibilities of competition are absent or limited (advocacy for application of public procurement rules to procurement of natural monopolies and regulated industries).
- Creation of favorable environment for development of competition in the markets, including liberalization, structural and regulatory reforms (e.g. railroads, electricity, etc.). Developing competition based "rules of the game" in the markets with all government and business stakeholders involved.
- Raising awareness of businesses rights when they are subjected to monopolistic practices. Agency – business cooperation in revealing and ceasing antitrust violations (e.g. cooperation with business associations like "Opora Rossii" – "The Pillar of Russia").
- Dialog with ultimate and intermediate consumers – the FAS "Public Council."
- Cartel awareness and leniency program.

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Evaluation of Competition Advocacy Efforts

- Limited possibility of quantitative assessment of effects of competition advocacy efforts (except public procurement).
- Thus, activity (not effect) based quantitative assessment is mainly applied.
- Indirect evidence of competition advocacy effects:
 - More industry regulations include pro-competitive provisions.
 - More cases are brought about by private plaintiffs; FAS is getting more reactive than proactive in case initiation.
 - Development of private bar and growth of the market of legal services.
 - Increased awareness of competition rules, benefits of competition and skills of considering antitrust cases in judges corp.
 - Increased FAS visibility in the media.