

CESifo Venice Summer Institute 2008

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CALL FOR PAPERS

CESifo Workshop on

REFORMING RULES AND REGULATIONS LAWS, INSTITUTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

Organiser: Vivek Ghosal

to be held on **18-19 July 2008**

on the island of San Servolo in the Bay of Venice, Italy

Workshop description

The focus of the workshop will be on reforming rules and regulations with an eye towards helping markets function better. In many instances, underlying rules and regulations hinder the competitive functioning of the markets, leading to loss of consumer or total welfare. In a broad sense, the loss may manifest itself in a variety of dimensions such as higher prices, lower product variety and quality,

reduced product and process innovation, and reduced quantity supplied to the markets. In recent years, many countries have taken steps to reform various domestic rules and regulations to improve the functioning of markets. The specific areas we have in mind include:

- Restrictions that are (or have been) imposed by professional organisations such as medical, legal, among others, that limit or even prevent competition.
- Local or regional governments may impose a variety of rules and regulations that impede the flows of goods and services into local markets or may have regulations that allow for cross-local comparisons.
- Rules and regulations made by national governments or broader jurisdictions (e.g., European Union) which can have widespread effects on entry, new investment and innovation in specific industries such as banking and finance, telecommunications, electricity, airlines, among others.
- Rules and regulations that can improve the decision-making of consumers, such as regulations that may create a standard for transparency of information in a variety of financial transactions.

One policy arena that has important bearing on the reform of rules and regulations are competition laws and their enforcement. Given the potentially significant role played by competition law enforcement, the workshop will aim to examine the guidance this policy can provide to the reform of rules and regulations, including issues related to the structure of competition law enforcement institutions and harmonisation of enforcement standards across international jurisdictions.

The primary objective of the workshop will be to focus on the microeconomic aspects, and the papers we are interested in will examine:

1. Reform of domestic rules and regulations by local or national governments that restrict competition.
2. Reform of rules and restrictions imposed by professional organisations that restrict competition.
3. Reforming rules and regulations that may help consumers make the right choices in the markets.
4. The linkages between competition laws and enforcement and the reform of rules and regulations.
5. Development of methodology that can be used to assess the detrimental effects of rules and regulations. Included in this are competition tests (or filters) to screen for the potentially adverse effects of rules and regulations.
6. Reform of laws and institutions needed to achieve items 1-3. Included in this are reform of regulatory and competition law enforcement institutions.
7. The implementation and enforcement issues needed to achieve items 1-3.

In the above areas, we are looking for the following types of papers:

1. Empirical papers. In particular those that demonstrate: (a) the adverse effects of existing rules and regulations; or (b) how relaxing rules and regulations produced benefits related to prices, efficiency, quality, product and process innovation, and employment, among others.

2. Theoretical papers. These papers will have to be sufficiently applied and relevant to the policy context under consideration.
3. Policy-oriented papers. These papers must be rigorous and preferably contain analysis of data to shed light on the issues. This category could also contain papers that highlight reforms of laws and/or institutions.
4. Case studies. These papers will examine particular policy reforms and should contain rigorous analysis using data and consideration of impacts of alternative courses of action, including the actual policy reform that was selected.

The workshop will include invited as well as contributed papers.

Papers presented at the conference are eligible for submission to the *CESifo Working Paper Series*. In addition, a selection of the conference papers will be considered for an edited MIT press volume, following a refereeing process, or a special issue of a refereed international journal in the area of regulation and competition. It is understood that all submissions to the conference imply submission to the publication outlet.

Keynote speaker

Frederic Jenny Professor ESSEC Business School, Paris and Chairman of the OECD Competition Law and Policy Committee

Organiser

Further questions regarding the scientific content of the conference should be addressed to the conference organiser:

Vivek Ghosal School of Economics, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
vivek.ghosal@econ.gatech.edu

Contact

For submission, please visit www.cesifo.org. Go to the "Conferences and Events" page, click on the conference name and then on the "Submit Paper" link below the conference description. Only online submissions are accepted. Should you have any (technical) difficulties with the online submission procedure, please contact office@cesifo.de for assistance.

The deadline for submissions is **March 31, 2008**.

Authors of papers that are accepted for presentation at the workshop will be informed by the end of April.

Final versions of the accepted papers are due by 15th June, 2008. At this stage the papers will have to be complete for distribution.

CESifo will provide accommodation, and will reimburse economy travel costs, for all participants with accepted papers. Other CESifo Research Network members are invited to participate, but are expected to provide their own funding for travel and accommodation.