

CONFERENCE ON Reviewing the Global Experience with Economic Regulation

A Forward Looking Perspective

Call for Papers

CUTS International will be organising this conference in New Delhi on April 18-20, 2011. Papers are invited by practitioners, experts and students from all over the world in the following areas:

- The rationale for economic regulation – enforcement of competition law and sector regulation
[Contributors should focus on the need for and benefits of competition law and sector regulation and the factors which lead to their enforcement or modification]
- Methodology for regulatory decision making and evaluation of regulation
 - A) Theory: Competition analysis, competition assessment, consumer impact assessment, regulatory impact assessment, other qualitative approaches
 - B) Actual case studies of sector regulation, competition law enforcement and the interface between the two

[Contributors may elaborate on and examine methodologies followed for choice among regulatory alternatives and ex-post evaluation of regulations. A) lists some of the standard methodologies. Other contributors should present case studies of implementation of regulation in the nature of evaluations – either sector specific regulation or competition law or the interface between the two]

- Regulatory frameworks and approaches for achieving regulatory coherence
[Contributions should focus on the networks of institutions, at the sectoral and macro level, that can be/are being used to regulate the functioning of economies to maximise beneficial welfare impacts; they may also focus on rules for constitution of and interface between regulatory bodies – for example, the interface between regional and national competition authorities]
- Consumer participation in economic regulation
[Contributors should focus on the need for consumer participation in the formulation and implementation of regulations. Case studies of consumer participation in regulation would be appreciated]

A total of eight papers will be chosen for presentation at the conference. CUTS would provide travel allowance and local hospitality for chosen presenters as well as bring their submitted papers out through a volume from a leading publishing house.

All submissions must be made to c-cier@cuts.org and/or vb@cuts.org by January 31, 2011. Those submitting would receive decisions through email by February 20, 2011. All submissions must be between 8000-10,000 words in length. Submissions can be made jointly though only one of the co-authors of any selected submission would be provided travel allowance and local hospitality to facilitate participation in the conference.

In addition to papers selected on the basis of the call, CUTS would showcase its own work on economic regulation as well as invite papers from targeted experts. This conference would, therefore, provide students and budding practitioners submitting papers an excellent opportunity to interact with renowned experts in the field.

Background and Guidance Notes

The term ‘regulation’ is associated with such broad usage that its relevance is seen in almost all walks of life. It has, therefore, been classified into various types, one major class being ‘economic regulation’ or regulation that directly affects the number of firms operating in markets, the quantity

transacted in each market and shares of participating firms in the transacted amount, and finally, the prices at which these transactions are carried out. Such direct effects might in turn impact the quality of output, the pace of innovation etc.

An important part of economic regulation is the enforcement of competition law or a uniform approach to prevention of anti-competitive practices in all sectors of the economy. Competition law is complemented by sector specific economic regulation that addresses the specific needs of the concerned sector.

While there is a fair bit of consensus on the definition of 'economic regulation' there is wide disagreement and confusion about the rationale for such regulation. Neo-classical economists consider regulation to be necessitated by market failures, either arising out of the intrinsic characteristics of the industry (externalities, asymmetries in information and natural monopolies) or engineered by man through actions that violate the spirit of fair competition. Yet others see it as a means for reducing inequity, including that brought about by unequal distribution of endowments.

Such lack of consensus implies that it is often difficult to define a methodology for measuring quality of economic regulation or even an agenda for consumer participation in regulation that meets the approval of even the majority of experts and practitioners. Disagreement about parameters for evaluation in turn imply that regulatory change rarely follows a linear path and is often prey to the whims of personalities and the prevailing political environment.

This conference would be a humble attempt to forge some agreement on the mentioned issues (also bulleted above) by putting on display different approaches for rationalising, formulating and evaluating economic regulation as well as defining stakeholder participation in such regulation; and then inviting discussion and debate among students, experts and practitioners with varying perspectives from different parts of the world.

Important Rules and Requirements

- Your paper **MUST** include the following:
 - Title
 - Abstract
 - A short biography, reviewing the principal author's and co-author(s) professional and educational background. Complete contact information (full address, telephone and fax numbers, email address) must be included with each biography
- CUTS reserve the right to decline any paper with commercial content without notice
- The content of the paper must not be announced or published prior to the event
- The number of accepted papers and the panel subjects will depend on the number quality, and subject areas of the submitted papers
- The paper should be within the word limit as mentioned above

For submission and/or further details please contact:

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