

Editor's Note

The Seattle Ministerial Conference to launch a new Trade Round of the WTO last December had raised hopes that progress could be made in the process of global liberalisation. In this regard the role of competition law is a vital one. The opportunity has been missed.

In this issue of *World Competition*, Nataliya Yacheistova, of the Russian Ministry for Anti-monopoly Policy and Support of Entrepreneurship, addresses the role member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States have to play in this discussion of creating common competition rules. She describes in her article the challenges member states of the CIS have faced and how this could be applied to creating multilateral competition rules.

In his article Eugenio Bissocoli addresses the very interesting topic of trade associations and the exchange of information, comparing US antitrust laws with those of the EC. Information exchange of a different sort is the topic discussed by Mia Forbes-Pirie in her article on the complainant in EC law. Ms Forbes-Pirie discusses the pros and cons of making a complaint to the European Commission and the rights of a complainant during the procedure up to and then beyond a decision by the Commission whether or not to investigate the complaint.

Sigrid Stroux concentrates her article on the very topical discussion on controlling oligopolies and collective dominance. In her in-depth exploration of the subject, Ms Stroux sets out the economic opinions on oligopolies, the development of the European Court of Justice's jurisprudence and the consequences of the recent *Gencor* judgment and the subsequent *Airtours* European Commission decision. The importance of this issue cannot be underestimated as the European Commission begins to take on the challenges of encouraging competition at a global level.

Agustinoy and Creus address the questions surrounding the *Microsoft* case. The article provides insightful history to the operative system and how the inertia of the antitrust legal process has on occasion failed to tackle the competition concerns due to the speed of change in the computer industry. This article provides a real eye-opener as to how important it is that competition and antitrust legislation and procedure must adapt to a faster moving world.

Again on the theme of opening markets, Dr Abeyratne discusses the emergent trends in aviation competition laws in Europe and North America. He analyses the changes that could be introduced and the way forward to liberalise this industry.

The world of competition is a growing one. Its goal is to create liberalised and free markets. Competition policy should not lead to obstruction of free trade through the creation of many different national competition rules. It is to be hoped that the

European Commission's initiatives to re-launch the WTO Trade Round will succeed and take competition policy on board.

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Editor

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