

Regulatory Policy Institute

rpi



8th March 2010

One Great George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA

# The Role of Competition in Public Policy

Writing about the purposes of the conference, Professors Catherine Waddams and George Yarrow have said:

“We are firmly of the view that it is important to be clear about the role of competition within the more general portfolio of economic policies, and about what competitive markets can and cannot reasonably be expected to achieve. Following the financial crunch, and in the context of the increasing importance of climate change policy, there has been a tendency toward greater scepticism about the virtues of the competitive markets. This poses significant risks, since the command-and-control/heavy regulation alternatives often create other distortions and unintended consequences.

At the same time, some analysts have claimed rather more for competition than is warranted by the evidence, particularly in relation to short-run consumer benefits but also more generally in relation to the achievement of various public policy ‘targets’. Such over-claims can only add to scepticism, and may, when seen to be false, have the unintended effects of promoting anti-competitive regulation and of undermining competitive processes. It is against this background that the conference seeks to bring together leading thinkers and practitioners in the area to consider and discuss the role of competition in public policy, both generally and in a few, more specific, sectoral contexts.”

Supported by

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This conference is arranged jointly by the Regulatory Policy Institute ([www.rpieurope.org](http://www.rpieurope.org)) and the ESRC Centre for Competition Policy, University of East Anglia (<http://www.uea.ac.uk/ccp>)



MONDAY 8 MARCH 2010

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Session 1 9.30am - 10.30am

*Why competition? 250 years of learning and forgetting in political economy*

**Professor George Yarrow,**  
Chairman, Regulatory Policy Institute

*Supervision of competitive and regulatory processes: the role of legal frameworks*

**Peter Freeman,**  
Chairman, Competition Commission

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Coffee break 10.30am - 10.50am

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Session 2 10.50am - 12noon

*Competition and consumer protection issues in retail energy markets*

**Professor Catherine Waddams,** Director,  
ESRC Centre for Competition Policy, UEA

*The role of competition in telecoms and retail banking markets*

**Fod Barnes,** Senior Adviser, Oxera  
**Dr Helen Jenkins,** Managing Director, Oxera

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12noon - 12.30pm Roundtable discussion for morning sessions

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Lunch 12.30pm - 1.30pm

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Session 3 1.30pm - 2.50pm

*US perspectives on the role of Antitrust policy*

**Professor Carl Shapiro,** Chief Economist,  
US Dept. of Justice, Antitrust Division

*The role of competition policy in the EU*

**Damien Neven,** Chief Economist, DG Comp,  
European Commission

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Coffee break 2.50pm - 3.10pm

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Session 4 3.10pm - 4.30pm

*The next decade: ensuring that competitive markets continue to deliver good outcomes for the UK consumers and the economy*

**John Fingleton,** CEO, Office of Fair Trading

*UK competition law 10 years on*

**Professor Sir John Vickers,** University of Oxford

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4.30pm - 5.15pm Roundtable discussion for afternoon sessions

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5.15pm Close



## The Role of Competition in Public Policy

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Name .....

Position .....

Company/Organisation .....

Invoice Address .....

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Telephone ..... Mobile .....

Email .....

Dietary Requirements .....

Interests e.g. energy .....

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Would you like to be added to the RPI's Hertford seminar mailing list? Y / N

### Conference fees, including lunch:

- Academic/Student - £100 + VAT
- Corporate or Individual member - £200 + VAT
- Non-member - £400 + VAT

### Please send completed forms to:

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T: +44 1865 792858 F: +44 1865 241885 E: [karin.cheetham@rpieurope.org](mailto:karin.cheetham@rpieurope.org)

### CANCELLATION POLICY:

We regret that conference places booked will be charged for unless cancellation is received two weeks before the conference. Preliminary bookings should be confirmed at least two weeks before the event.