

Announcement & Agenda

Competition Workshop

“Privacy regulation, competition policy and innovation on the internet”

March 14, 2012 (Wednesday), 13.30-17.15

Bezuidenhoutseweg 30, room 29, The Hague

Dear All,

On March 14 the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis and TILEC (Tilburg Law and Economic Center of Tilburg University) jointly organise a Competition Workshop on “Privacy regulation, competition policy and innovation on the internet”.

Companies providing services over internet largely compete by innovating. With marginal costs being close to zero, competition for the market has become the norm and competition in the market the exception. At the same time user-generated data have become a central input to new services. These data-based innovations are the core business of companies like Google, Facebook, and Twitter. Users willingly provide data either because data are essential to the service (no search without entering search terms), or because companies require them to do so. In other instances, users are unaware that data is collected (browsing behavior). As the quality of internet services increases with the number of users, the market power of incumbents often is substantial.

By exploiting novel ways of collecting, analyzing and commercializing user data, these companies frequently run into the limitations imposed by existing privacy regulation. At the same time, data-based innovations lead to new concerns about privacy, sometimes followed by new regulation. Cookies tracking surfing behavior are an example of such an innovation that induces regulation.

The interdependence of privacy concerns, innovation, and competition implies that privacy regulation and competition policy can have conflicting goals. Does stronger protection of privacy reduce the scope for data-based innovation, thereby limiting the scope for competition? This Competition Workshop aims to stimulate the discussion on unintended consequences of privacy regulation. Are there trade-offs between privacy and innovation that should be taken into account by privacy and competition authorities?

We cordially invite you to participate in the workshop. If you would like to attend the workshop, please send an e-mail with your name and affiliation to Ali Aouragh (a.aouragh@cpb.nl).

Please note that this workshop takes place in the main building of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation. You need to take your ID with you in order to enter the building.

Please, do not hesitate to forward this invitation to your colleagues.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please, send an e-mail to A.Aouragh@cpb.nl with the subject "Unsubscribe".

Best wishes,

Ali Aouragh (CPB, Unit Markets and Regulation)

Eric van Damme (CentER and TILEC, Tilburg University)

Jurian Muller (Ministry of EL&I, Directorate Competition and Consumers)

Bas Straathof (CPB, Unit Markets and Regulation)

Competition Workshop
“Privacy regulation, competition policy and innovation on the internet”

March 14 2012, 13.30-17.15
Bezuidenhoutseweg 30, room 29

13.30-13.35	Opening by Dr. Paul de Bijl (CPB, head of unit Markets and Regulation)
13.35-13.45	Introduction
13.45-14.15	Speaker: Mr. drs. Joris van Hoboken (IViR; Bits of Freedom) <i>“Online service providers and competition for big user data: a final blow to privacy?”</i>
14.15-14.55	Discussant: Dr. ir. Daniël Tijink (Directorate Telecom, EL&I) Followed by general discussion
Tea/Coffee-break	
15.25-15.35	Introduction
15.35-16.05	Speaker: Dr. Jens Prüfer (Tilburg School of Economics and Management) <i>“Search Engine Competition by User-Generated Information”</i>
16.05-16.45	Discussant: Mr. Simon Hampton (Google) Followed by general discussion
Drinks	

This workshop is organised by the Ministry of EL&I, TILEC and CPB.



Ministerie van Economische Zaken,
Landbouw en Innovatie



CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic
Policy Analysis