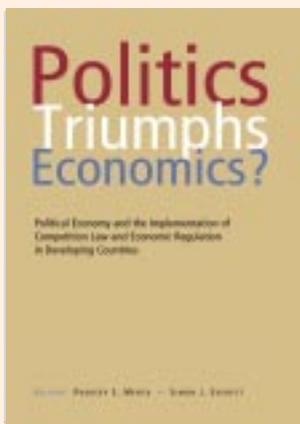


CUTS LATEST PUBLICATIONS

COMPETITION & INVESTMENT



Politics Triumphs Economics?

Political Economy and the Implementation of Competition Law and Economic Regulation in Developing Countries

This research volume published under the 'Competition, Regulation and Development Research Forum' (CDRF) project covers a wide range of issues such as how political economy underlying the implementation and enforcement of competition and regulatory laws and regimes, how barriers posed by vested interests to the free and fair functioning of competition and regulatory regimes and why the often choppy relationship between competition enforcement agencies and regulators attributable to functional overlap, which often delays decisions and is, therefore, detrimental to the welfare of any country.

This Research Paper throws light on several issues, which could not have been anticipated otherwise. A very fundamental result of the research stresses the influence of vested interests on competition and regulatory agencies in developing countries with the recommendation for a wide implementation of competition policy to tackle such vested interests. Another major recommendation is for competition agencies to prioritise their casework, given their limited financial resources and human capabilities.

This Book can be purchased at:

http://www.academicfoundation.com/n_detail/ptrumph.asp

CUTS
International

Consumer Unity & Trust Society

January 2009

D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016, India, Ph: 91.141.228 2821, Fx: 91.141.228 2485

Email: cuts@cuts.org, Website: www.cuts-international.org

COMPETITION & INVESTMENT



The Competition Regime as a Determinant of Consumer Welfare: Focus on Indian Telecom



The Competition Regime as a Determinant of Consumer Welfare: Focus on Indian Telecom

In India, promotion of competition, safeguarding consumer interest, ensuring a balance between need and supply, and other similar policy objectives are postulated as objectives in Government policy documents from time to time, indicating that these continue to be high on the government's list of priorities. However, it is the extent of implementation that needs to be evaluated.

This Monograph elaborates on the concept of consumer welfare which has been concretised and delineated in the form of consumer rights and examines how such rights can be furthered through a competition regime. It evaluates the formulation and implementation of Government policies in India, which have affected the pursuit of competition and consumer welfare enhancement. The Monograph also offers a case study of the telecom sector in India that examines competition issues that are juxtaposed against an evaluation of the extent to which the mentioned consumer rights are being satisfied.

This Monograph can be viewed at:

http://www.cuts-ccier.org/pdf/Comp_Regime_Determinant_of_Consumer_Welfare.pdf

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



The National Foreign Trade Policy – An Impact Assessment

(CITEE Briefing Paper No 1/2009)

The National Foreign Trade Policy (NFTP), 2004-09 is a watershed in the history of trade policy making in India. Having replaced the earlier Export Import Policy, NFTP aims to double India's share in global merchandise trade. It recommends export promotion schemes in agriculture, handloom and other sectors. However, it has been found that the highly centralised and bureaucratic nature of policymaking prevents the involvement of people at the grassroots. In order to address this, CUTS is implementing a project entitled, 'Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India

on Trade & Economics' (GRANITE), to work for democratisation of trade policy and promotion of accountability and transparency in economic governance.

This Briefing Paper is based on research done as a part of the mentioned project. It introduces the process of trade policymaking in a federal polity, giving an overview of various institutional and implementation issues and discusses how knowledge gaps can be overcome by dissemination of information. The Paper also traces the impact of the NFTP on the poor and highlights various problems faced by the people at the grassroots with suitable recommendations.

This Briefing Paper can be accessed at: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP09-DI-01.pdf>

India's Stand in the WTO Doha Round

(CITEE Briefing Paper No 2/2009)



The failure of the Mini-Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in July 2008 to finalise the “modalities” in agriculture and Non Agricultural Market Access (NAMA), and the inability of the WTO Director General to take another jibe in December 2008 has put question a mark on the future of Doha Round. The intention behind these efforts in 2008 was to: agree on the commitments to be made by Members on these two main issues so that fairly elaborate exercise of preparing schedules of commitments could be completed by 2009; and wrap up negotiations in all the other areas to conclude the Doha Round.

This Briefing Papers argues some crucial points: first, India did not ask for the Doha Round. Without going into the history and reasons behind the launch of the Round in 2001, one can safely state that India went along with the then emerging consensus because it supported a rule-based multilateral trading system.

Second, at that time, India had not emerged as an important player in the realm of regional trade agreements (RTAs) but it had benefited from the predictability of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)/WTO framework.

Third, India engaged constructively and carried a twin responsibility: protecting its own core negotiating interests and joining other like-minded developing countries in formulating a coordinated position of the developing world.

This Briefing Paper can be accessed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP09-WTO-01.pdf>

Assessing Impacts of Government Policies on Consumers

(C-CIER Briefing Paper No 1/2009)



Enhancing consumer welfare has been the prime objective of various policies and legislations, including the competition law and regulatory laws. But, there is no formal mechanism to assess the impact of such policies on consumer welfare. The traditional measures of consumer welfare do not pay sufficient attention to individual access to freedoms and facilities for generating human capabilities. Consumer Impact Assessment (CIA) is a tool to measure consumer welfare, which is based on protection of consumer rights. It is designed to help policy makers

evaluate policies and practices through a consumer lens.

This Briefing Paper explains why CIA is essential for all policies, regulations and legislations that are likely to affect consumers. It also explains the methodology and various tools required for doing CIA.

This Briefing Paper can be accessed at:
http://www.cuts-ccier.org/pdf/Assessing_Impacts_Government_Policies_Consumers.pdf