



Workshop Evaluation of Competitive and Regulatory Policies

*Date: 24 February 2005
Time: 14:00 – 17.30 hrs.
Venue: Ministry of Economic Affairs
Bezuidenhoutseweg 30, The Hague*

ENCORE is organizing a workshop on the question of what has been achieved with competition and regulation policies in the Netherlands in the past decade. Three issues will be discussed:

- Did competition and regulation policies bring us what we expected (lower prices, higher quality, more choice, more competition, less regulation, higher welfare)?
- If YES: what did we do right?
- If NO: what did we do wrong?

Answers to these questions will be sought for a number of specific markets, such as financial markets, energy markets, telecommunication, health, transportation (railroad) and reintegration markets.

We have approached a number of outstanding Dutch economists, who have published on these issues before, to present a sound and consistent answer to the questions above at the workshop. During the workshop discussants from the ministry of Economic Affairs, the Netherlands Competition Authority (NMa) and the regulatory agencies will react to the presentations.

The final program features:

- prof. Arnoud Boot, University of Amsterdam, on the financial sector
- prof. dr. Eric van Damme, TILEC, University of Tilburg, on the electricity sector
- prof. Maarten Janssen, Tinbergen Institute and Erasmus University, on the telecom sector
- prof. Hugo Keuzenkamp, Delta Lloyd and University of Amsterdam, on the health sector
- prof. Piet Rietveld, Free University Amsterdam, on the railroad sector
- prof. Coen Teulings, SEO, University of Amsterdam, on the reintegration sector

The first part of the workshop will discuss the electricity, telecom and railroad sector. These markets have been liberalized and partly privatized some time ago and we want to draw lessons from the many years of experience with competition in these sectors. The focus of the second part is on sectors where the introduction of competition is fairly recent or where it is still largely on the drawing board (integration sector and health sector) or where the regulatory institutions to monitor competition are rather new (financial sector). An interesting question for the second part is whether the lessons learned from earlier experiences have taught us anything.

A first written draft of their intervention at the workshop will be available before the workshop. Afterwards a final draft will be published on the ENCORE website.