



European Commission

Competition

**Global Competition Law Centre
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Seven years at the helm of DG Competition

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Changes over seven years

- Fundamental reforms to antitrust enforcement: Regulation 1/2003
- EC Merger Review 2004
- Organisational changes at DG Competition: markets, matrix structure and checks and balances



Changes over seven years

- Move towards a more effects-based approach: but ex ante rules have a key role
- Cases: Microsoft, E.On and other commitments decisions, Telefonica, Mastercard, Intel
- Increased use of sector inquiries



Changes over seven years

- Successes in cartels enforcement: improving leniency policy, strengthening fining policy, introducing settlements system
- Greatly increased international cooperation, in particular on cartels and merger control
- Modern ethics and integrity policy



What remains unchanged

- Recognition that markets are the best way to organise the delivery of good and services to the consumer
- Growing consensus on key objective of making markets work well for the benefit of business and consumers



Current challenges

- Most recent challenge: the financial and economic crisis
- Essential to ensure the respect of competition principles, through predictability, enforcement and in regulatory initiatives