The Swedish Competition Rules
– an introduction
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Effective competition is a key driver for the better use of resources in society, pressure on prices and an increased range and variety of goods and services to the benefit of consumers. Competition also improves the capacity of undertakings to establish themselves in international markets.

Competition is restricted if undertakings fix prices, share markets or prevent new companies from entering the market. This is why rules are required to stop undertakings from cooperating in order to restrict competition or from abusing a dominant position in the market.

The Competition Act (2008:579) contains such rules. The Act is based on prohibitions and heavy sanctions which basically follows the same principles that apply within the EU. The practice developed within the EU serves as guidance when applying the Act.

Two main prohibitions
The Act contains two main provisions: one that prohibits anti-competitive cooperation between undertakings (Chapter 2, Article 1) and one that prohibits undertakings with a dominant position from abusing their market power (Chapter 2, Article 7). These articles are reproduced and explained on pages 4-5 and 8-9.

Exemptions from the rules on prohibited cooperation
An agreement or behaviour is lawful if the undertaking can show that it satisfies the conditions laid down in the rule on exemptions contained in Chapter 2, Article 2 of the Competition Act. Undertakings must be able to show that the cooperation contributes to improving the production or distribution or to promoting technical or economic progress. The undertaking must also show that consumers get a fair share of the benefit resulting from the cooperation.

Some types of agreements are exempt from the prohibition against anti-competitive cooperation. These ‘block exemptions’ are compiled in a number of laws. Undertakings may use these as guidance to determine whether or not their agreements are covered by a block exemption. See page 6.

There are special rules for farming and taxi operations that entail certain exemptions from the prohibition against anti-competitive cooperation.

Sanctions
If an undertaking infringes any of the prohibitions laid down in the Competition Act, it may be required to terminate the infringement and/or be liable to pay an administrative fine.

Certain infringements of the prohibition against anti-competitive cooperation may lead to a trading prohibition under the Trading Prohibition Act (1986:436).

Furthermore, agreements that fall under the prohibition against anti-competitive cooperation are void. An undertaking may also be liable to compensate the damage caused by an infringement of the competition rules. See page 13.
**Anti-competitive sales activities by public entities**
The rule for sales activities carried on by public entities in competition with private undertakings applies from 1 January 2010. See page 9.

**Concentrations between undertakings**
The Competition Act also contains rules on the control of concentrations between undertakings. The Swedish Competition Authority must be notified of concentrations where the annual turnover of the undertaking exceeds certain thresholds. The Authority may take action against a concentration that is likely to result in significant adverse effects. See page 10.

**EU competition rules**
The Swedish Competition Authority shall apply Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) if the restriction on competition affects trade between EU Member States to an appreciable extent. See page 16.

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**What is an ‘undertaking’?**

The Swedish Competition Act only applies to undertakings. The term undertaking includes every form of activity of an economic or commercial nature. It does not matter whether or not the undertaking is geared towards make a profit. Nor does its legal status make a difference.

Limited liability companies, trading partnerships, sole traders and economic associations are undertakings. State and municipal bodies may also fall within the ambit of this concept, though not when the exercise of official powers is involved.

**What is a ‘relevant market’?**

Relevant market is a key term in competition law, for example when determining market power. Both a product market and a geographic market will be determined when delimiting the relevant market.

The product’s substitutability is decisive when delimiting the product market. Products that purchasers consider to be comparable in terms of properties, price and use belong to the same product market. The question of whether there are products that can be quickly changed so that they become comparable is also important.

Undertakings with a dominant position must not abuse their market power. Being dominant means having a strong economic standing that makes it possible to prevent effective competition. The undertaking may then act to an appreciable extent independently of its competitors and customers.
Chapter 2 Prohibited restrictions of competition

1 §

Agreements between undertakings shall be prohibited if they have as their object or effect, the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition in the market to an appreciable extent, if not otherwise regulated in this act.

This shall apply, in particular, to agreements which:

1. directly or indirectly fix purchase or selling prices or any other trading conditions
2. limit or control production, markets, technical development, or investment;
3. markets or sources of supply
4. apply dissimilar conditions to equivalent transactions with other trading parties, thereby placing them at a competitive disadvantage; or
5. make the conclusion of contracts subject to acceptance by the other parties of supplementary obligations, which by their nature or according to commercial usage have no connection with the subject of such contracts.

The prohibition covers cooperation between two or more undertakings. The cooperation may be effected through an agreement, a decision by an association of undertakings or ‘concerted practice’.

A decision by an association of undertakings may for instance occur if the regulations of a trade association give associations the power to determine how undertakings should conduct themselves on the market.

‘Concerted practice’ refers to situations where undertakings, without having any direct agreement, apply a particular practice following mutual agreement. Concerted practice presupposes that some form of contact has taken place between the undertakings.

The restriction on competition must be appreciable

Cooperation must affect competition to an appreciable extent in order for it to be prohibited. The market share and size of the cooperating partners are important when making this assessment.

Cooperation between small or medium-
sized undertakings, where the products affected by the agreement comprise a small proportion of the relevant market, normally falls outside the prohibition.

The Swedish Competition Authority has defined the term ‘appreciable extent’ in General Guidelines on agreements of minor importance (bagatellavtal). (Read more about the General Guidelines on page 18.) According to this, cooperation is not deemed to affect competition to an appreciable extent if the undertakings have a joint market share of no more than ten per cent of the relevant market in the case of agreements between undertakings operating at the same level of production or of marketing (‘horizontal agreements’). On the other hand, the limit in terms of market share is 15 per cent for agreements between suppliers and distributors (‘vertical agreements’).

However, there are no limits in terms of market share for certain kinds of agreement (e.g. horizontal price agreements or vertical agreements on territorial protection). Undertakings with a turnover of less than SEK 30 million may conclude anti-competitive agreements provided that their total market share does not exceed 15 per cent.

Examples of prohibited cooperation
Five examples of cooperation that is deemed to be particularly anti-competitive are given in Chapter 2, Article 1 of the Competition Act. This list is not exhaustive. There may also be other anti-competitive forms of cooperation.

1. Price cooperation. The provisions of the Act concerning such cooperation are particularly severe. The prohibition not only covers direct price cooperation, but also agreements that indirectly fix prices. It is irrelevant whether undertakings cooperate directly with each other or indirectly through, for example, a buying organisation or a professional association.

2. Limiting output. This may be the effect of undertakings concluding, for instance, specialisation agreements, joint production agreements, exclusive agreements or patent licensing agreements.

3. Market sharing. Examples of this kind of agreement include the sharing of quotas, sales territories or different categories of customers between competitors. Manufacturers and wholesalers are also prohibited from limiting output or restricting geographical sales territories or categories of customers in agreements with their distributors.

4. Discrimination. One example of this is where a supplier agrees with its distributors that a customer should not receive supplies.

5. Tying. One example of this is the practice of making the sale of one product conditional upon the purchase of another unwanted product or service. Tying may be permitted if there is a natural relationship between the add-on product and the main product contained in the agreement. As a rule, acceptance is only granted for tying that can be justified for good technical or qualitative reasons.
Exemptions

Cooperation between undertakings may be permitted under certain conditions despite the cooperation restricting competition. The positive effects of cooperation must then outweigh the negative effects.

Chapter 2 Prohibited restrictions of competition

2 §
The prohibition in Article 1 does not apply to agreements which
1. contributes to improving the production or distribution or to promoting technical or economic progress;
2. allows consumers a fair share of the resulting benefit;
3. only imposes on the undertakings concerned restrictions which are indispensable to the attainment of the objective referred to in paragraph 1, and
4. does not afford such undertakings the possibility of eliminating competition in respect of a substantial part of the utilities in question.

3 §
Exemptions from the prohibition in Article 1 shall apply to categories of agreements laid down in
1. Act (2008:580) concerning block exemption on anti-competitive agreements on certain co-operation concerning taxi services,
2. Act (2008:581) concerning block exemption on vertical anti-competitive agreements,
3. Act (2008:582) concerning block exemptions on anti-competitive specialisation agreements
5. Act (2008:584) concerning block exemption on vertical anti-competitive agreements in the motor vehicle sector
6. Act (2008:585) concerning block exemption on anti-competitive agreements in the insurance sector, and
Conditions for exemptions
The agreement or behaviour is lawful if the undertaking can show that it satisfies the conditions laid down in the rule on exemptions contained in Chapter 2, Article 2 of the Competition Act. Undertakings must be able to show that the cooperation contributes to improving the production or distribution or to promoting technical or economic progress. The undertaking must also show that consumers get a fair share of the benefit resulting from the cooperation.

Furthermore, the cooperation may not restrict competition more than is necessary to achieve the positive effects. Nor may competition be eliminated in respect of a substantial part of the products to which the cooperation refers.

See guidance on page 18.

Examples of positive effects
As regards the first condition, a specialisation agreement or an R&D agreement may for example improve production through cuts in production costs or increased productivity.

Positive effects for consumers may be lower prices, better service or new, improved products.

Block exemptions
There are exemptions for certain groups of agreement, known as ‘block exemptions’. These are described in seven laws concerning group exemptions.

Undertakings may determine themselves and at their own risk whether or not the agreement is covered by a block exemption.

There are block exemptions for:

- Cooperation agreements concerning certain taxi services
- Vertical agreements
- Specialisation agreements
- Agreements concerning research and development
- Agreements in the motor vehicle sector
- Agreements in the insurance sector
- Technology transfer agreements

Farming and taxis
Certain cooperation within farming and taxi operations is exempt from the prohibition on anti-competitive cooperation (‘legal exemptions’). These are shown in Chapter 2, Articles 4 and 5 of the Competition Act.
Prohibition against abuse of a dominant position

A dominant undertaking is not allowed to abuse its market position. To be dominant means to have a financial position that makes it possible to hinder effective competition, such that the undertaking is able to operate without consideration of the actions of its competitors and customers.

Chapter 2 Prohibited restrictions of competition

7 §

Any abuse by one or more undertakings of a dominant position on the market shall be prohibited.

Such abuse may, in particular, consist in

1. directly or indirectly imposing unfair purchase or selling prices or other unfair trading conditions,

2. limiting production, markets or technical development to the prejudice of consumers,

3. applying dissimilar conditions to equivalent transactions with other trading parties, thereby placing them at a competitive disadvantage, or

4. making the conclusion of contracts subject to acceptance by the other parties of supplementary obligations, which by their nature or according to commercial usage have no connection with the subject of such contracts.

A dominant position is normally based on a number of factors which, taken separately, are not necessarily decisive. Significant factors include financial strength, obstacles to establishment in the market, access to input materials, patent and other intellectual property rights together with technology and other superiority in terms of knowledge.

One important factor is the undertaking’s share of the relevant
market. A market share of between 40 and 50 per cent is considered to entail a clear sign of a dominant position.

Exemptions may never be granted from the prohibition against abusing a dominant position.

There are several examples of practices that may constitute abuse in Chapter 2, Article 7 of the Competition Act.

1. Charging excessive prices is one example of unreasonable purchase or selling prices. Another case is where a dominant undertaking applies prices below what is normally required to cover costs and make a profit in order to eliminate competitors or make it difficult for them to enter the market.

2. Agreements like exclusivity agreements, which tie suppliers and distribution channels, can limit output and restrict markets.

3. Discrimination may, for example, occur if prices, discounts or other commercial conditions result in differentiation between undertakings for no objective reason. Refusal to deliver is another form of discrimination.

4. One example of tying is where a dominant undertaking exploits its strong position and makes the purchase of a product conditional on the purchase of another product that does not have a natural or objective link to the first product.
Anti-competitive sales activities by public entities

When municipal authorities, county councils or the central government are engaged in business operations in a competitive market, this may result in competition being restricted.

The rule for sales activities carried on by public entities in competition with private undertakings applies from 1 January 2010. This means that the Swedish Competition Authority has recourse to Stockholm City Court to order to request the prohibition of sales activities by public entities that are considered to distort or impede competition.

Stockholm City Court will decide on whether to prohibit the activity or conduct. A prohibition may be imposed under penalty of fine for default.

Chapter 3 Actions against restrictions on competition

27 §
A certain conduct by the State, a municipality or a county council within a sales activity covered by Chapter 1, Article 5, first paragraph, may be prohibited through an injunction, if such conduct
1. distorts, by object or effect, the conditions for effective competition in the market, or
2. impedes, by object or effect, the occurrence or the development of such competition.

An injunction may not be imposed in relation to conduct that can be justified by public interest considerations.

A certain sales activity by a municipality or a county council may also be prohibited in cases referred to in the first paragraph.

However, such a sales activity may not be prohibited if it is compatible with law. An injunction shall take effect immediately, unless decided otherwise.

An injunction shall take effect immediately, unless decided otherwise.
Concentrations between undertakings

Concentrations between undertakings may be prohibited by courts in certain cases. This may happen when there is a significant adverse effect on competition.

Notification
The Swedish Competition Authority shall be notified if the aggregate annual turnover in Sweden of the undertakings concerned exceeds SEK 1 billion and at least two of the undertakings concerned have a turnover in Sweden that exceeds SEK 200 million for each of the undertakings. Notifications shall be made in accordance with the Swedish Competition Authority’s ‘Regulation on the notification of company concentrations’. Read more about our Regulations on page 18.

Where there are special reasons for doing so, the Swedish Competition Authority may require a party to a concentration to notify the concentration even if the undertaking’s turnover in Sweden does not exceed SEK 200 million. A party to a concentration is also entitled to voluntarily notify a concentration to the Swedish Competition Authority when the aggregate turnover of the undertaking exceeds SEK 1 billion in Sweden.

When are concentrations between undertakings stopped?
It is unusual for the Swedish Competition Authority to intervene in respect of concentrations between undertakings. An intervention in respect of a concentration between undertakings will only arise if the concentration would seriously impede effective competition or would result in the total elimination of competition.

Any negative effects that the concentration could have on competition are assessed using a ‘substantive test’.

How the concentration may affect competition in the market will be determined on the weight of the evidence. Factors that are considered include the market position and financial strength of the undertaking concerned, actual and potential competition and whether other undertakings are prevented from entering the market.

Measures that are less restrictive than a prohibition against the concentration may be considered, for example that some parts of the concentration may be implemented but not others. An undertaking may take on voluntary commitments to eliminate the anticompetitive effects of the concentration in conjunction with the Swedish Competition Authority’s examination. The Swedish Competition Authority may impose these commitments subject to a default fine, that is to say this fine may be confirmed in the event of a default in fulfilling the commitments imposed.

Procedure
When the Swedish Competition Authority has received a complete notification about a concentration between under-
Chapter 4 Control of concentrations

1 §
A concentration shall be prohibited, if it significantly restrains occurrence or the development of effective competition within the country as a whole, or a substantial part thereof. During the examination of the concentration and the question whether it will be forbidden account shall specially be taken to whether it creates or strengthens a dominant position.

A prohibition may only be carried out if no significant national or security- or supply interest will be set aside.

To the extent that the creation of a joint venture, which constitutes a concentration in accordance with Chapter 1, Article 9 second paragraph, has the aim or effect of coordinating the competitive behavior of the undertakings which remain independent, in the examination of a prohibition against the concentration, the co-ordination shall be appraised in accordance with Chapter 2, Articles 1 and 2.

2 §
If it is sufficient to eliminate the adverse effects of a concentration, a party to a concentration, instead of being subject to a prohibition pursuant to Article 1, may instead be required
1. to divest an undertaking, or a part of an undertaking, or
2. to take some other measure having a favorable effect on competition.

An obligation under the first paragraph may not be more extensive than is required to eliminate the harmful effects of a restriction on competition.

3 §
In consequence of a decision to prohibit a concentration, a transaction which constitutes a part of a concentration or has as its aim to carry out a concentration shall be void. /.../
Sanctions

An undertaking may be penalised if it infringes any of the prohibitions contained in the Competition Act. Sanctions include administrative fines, orders imposing obligations (backed up by default fines), nullity and damages. A trading prohibition may also be imposed on a person who exercises management control over an undertaking.

The courts make decisions on administrative fines. Obligations are imposed by the Swedish Competition Authority or, in the second instance, by the Market Court at the instance of an undertaking. A person who participates in a cartel may receive a trading prohibition in certain cases. A court shall impose a trading prohibition at the instance of the Swedish Competition Authority. Nullity does not require any decision stating that the agreement is a nullity, but the agreement is void from the outset. Damages may arise following court proceedings by the party adversely affected by an undertaking infringing the competition rules.

Administrative fine

An undertaking that knowingly or negligently infringes any of the prohibitions contained in the Competition Act may be liable to pay an administrative fine (i.e. a kind of fine). Stockholm City Court shall make a decision on the administrative fine following a request by the Swedish Competitive Authority.

The amount of the administrative fine is primarily set on the basis of the gravity of the infringement and its duration. Attenuating or aggravating circumstances, and the market power of the undertaking may also be taken into account.

Administrative fines may amount to no more than ten per cent of the undertaking’s total annual turnover.

Leniency and reductions

It is possible for undertakings to be completely or partly exempted from administrative fines if they acknowledge their involvement in an illicit cartel. The rules for what is required for undertakings to avoid paying an administrative fine can be found in General Guidelines from the Swedish Competition Authority.

Undertakings that wish to notify their involvement in a cartel and claim exemption from an administrative fine must contact the coordinator at the Swedish Competition Authority. The coordinator can be contacted at tel. +46 (0)8-700 15 99, fax +46 (0)8-700 15 98 or email eftergift_kkv@kkv.se

Fine orders

The Swedish Competition Authority may decide on an administrative fine if the infringement is established and the parties agree. A fine order that has been accepted is regarded to be a legally binding judgment.
Chapter 3 Actions against restrictions on competition

Obligation 1 §
The Swedish Competition Authority may require an undertaking to terminate an infringement of any of the prohibitions laid down in Chapter 2, Article 1 or 7 or Article 101 or 102 in the Treaty.

Administrative fines 5 §
The Stockholm City Court may, at the request of the Swedish Competition Authority order an undertaking to pay an administrative fine where the undertaking, or a person acting on behalf of the undertaking, intentionally or negligently has infringed the prohibitions in Chapter 2, Article 1 or 7 or Article 101 or 102 in the Treaty.

Trading prohibition 24 §
The Trading Prohibitions Act (1986:436) contains provisions on the issue of trading prohibitions for certain infringements of the prohibition contained in Chapter 2, Article 1 or in Article 101 of the Treaty.

Order imposing obligation – default fine
If an undertaking infringes any of the prohibitions contained in the Competition Act, the Swedish Competition Authority may order the undertaking to terminate the infringement.

The obligation imposed may be that the undertaking must stop applying a certain agreement, terms of agreement or some other prohibited practice. The order may also relate to, for example, an obligation concerning sales, rectification or prices.

An obligation may be imposed under penalty of a fine for default. If the undertaking does not make rectifications following the obligation, a general court will decide on whether the fine should be imposed following a request from the Swedish Competition Authority.

Trading prohibition
Stockholm City Court may impose a trading prohibition on a person who exercises control over an undertaking that participates in cartel activities. A trading prohibition may be avoided if the person facilitates the investigation of the Swedish Competition Authority to a significant extent.

Special right to legal action
An undertaking affected by the infringement is entitled to institute proceedings for an obligation at the Market
Court in those cases where there has been no intervention by the Swedish Competition Authority.

**Nullity**
An agreement that violates the prohibition against anti-competitive cooperation is void in private law; that is, a general court cannot order a party to perform the agreement. The courts shall determine in accordance with the customary rules on interpretation whether the entire agreement or just some of the clauses of an agreement are deemed to be void.

**Damages for other undertakings**
An undertaking that intentionally or negligently infringes any of the prohibitions contained in the Competition Act or EU competition rules may be liable to compensate the damage caused by the infringement.

The Group Proceedings Act may be applied in the event of a claim for damages as a consequence of infringements to competition.
The Swedish Competition Authority shall institute proceedings at Stockholm City Court as regards administrative fines, trading prohibitions, anti-competitive activities by public entities and concentrations between undertakings.

The Swedish Competition Authority may issue fine orders if the infringement is established and the parties agree.

The Swedish Competition Authority may conduct investigations at the premises of undertakings to investigate any infringements of the Competition Act. The Swedish Competition Authority must first have been granted permission by Stockholm City Court. Appeals against judgments and decisions of the Stockholm City Court relating to competition law issues may be lodged with the Market Court. Leave to appeal is required for such cases.

Appeals against decisions of the Swedish Competition Authority regarding obligations to terminate infringements

Instances and appeals according to the Competition Act in matters where the Swedish Competition Authority makes decisions or alternatively institutes proceedings.
of the Competition Act may be lodged directly with the Market Court.

Fine orders made by the Swedish Competition Authority apply as a judgment that has entered into final legal force and may only be set aside under certain special conditions.

An undertaking that has been affected by the infringement is entitled to institute proceedings if the Swedish Competition Authority does not take any action.

An action for damages may be instituted by the party adversely affected by the infringement by an undertaking of a prohibition of the competition rules. An action for damages shall be instituted at a competent court or at Stockholm City Court.

If an action for damages is dealt with alongside an action regarding an administrative fine, an appeal against a judgment of the City Court may be lodged with the Market Court.

Instances and appeals according to the Competition Act when an undertaking institutes proceedings.
Competition rules in the EU

EU competition rules contain two main prohibitions that apply to undertakings: one against anti-competitive agreements (Article 101 of TFEU) and one against abuse of a dominant position (Article 102 of TFEU). These provisions correspond to Chapter 2, Article 1 and Chapter 2, Article 7 of the Competition Act respectively. (See pages 4 and 8.) There are also special rules about controlling concentrations between undertakings.

For anti-competitive agreements and abuse of a dominant position, a practice may be examined both according to EU competition rules and according to the Swedish Competition Act. EU competition rules apply as Swedish law in parallel with the Swedish competition legislation. The EU competition rules apply if trade between Member States is affected. Agreements between undertakings that only affect the Swedish market may also be examined according to EU competition rules if, for example, they impede imports. A general and constant exemption applies regarding the prohibition against anti-competitive cooperation for cooperation between undertakings where the positive effects outweigh the negative effects (Article 101.3). Undertakings may determine themselves whether their own agreements or conduct comply with the conditions that have been laid down.

The European Commission shall examine concentrations between undertakings that have a Community dimension; that is, where the turnover of the undertaking exceeds certain thresholds and undertakings operate in several Member States. They may be examined nationally in exceptional cases.

An appeal against a decision of the Commission decision may be lodged with the General Court and, in certain cases, with the European Court of Justice. The address of the General Court and the court’s website is: http://curia.europa.eu/

Concentrations between undertakings
Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 is the legal basis for the procedure for controlling concentrations between undertakings within the EU.

Notification is obligatory for all concentrations that have a ‘Community dimension’. Such concentrations may not be implemented before approval by the Commission.

A concentration between undertakings may be prohibited if it significantly impedes effective competition in the common market or in a substantial part of it.

Complaints
An undertaking that has been the subject of an anti-competitive practice on the part of another undertaking may make a complaint to the Commission.

It is also possible to make an anonymous complaint about an anti-com-
petitive practice where it is suspected that such conduct conflicts with EU competition rules.

The Commission may also launch an investigation on its own initiative without a formal notification having been made.

**Remedies**
If an agreement or other cooperation conflicts with EU competition rules, they are void. Furthermore, the Commission may decide on fines as well as impose obligations backed up by a default fine when the rules have been infringed. Fines may amount to no more than ten per cent of the undertaking’s total turnover.

Fines may also be incurred by an undertaking that has submitted incorrect information to the Commission. Undertakings within the EU are liable to submit information to the Commission.

**State aid and procurements**
EU competition rules are also directed at the governments of the Member States. State aid that distorts competition between Member States may be prohibited.

When public administrations procure goods and services, they may not discriminate against undertakings from other countries within the EU. For this reason, the Swedish State, and similarly municipal authorities and county councils, must allow undertakings in all Member States to submit tenders for procurements over certain thresholds. Correspondingly, Swedish undertakings can compete for tenders in Member States of the EU.

**Contact details**
The European Commission
Directorate General for Competition
Rue Joseph II / Jozef II-straat 70
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Tel. (+32)-2-299 11 11
Fax (+32)-2-295 01 28
http://ec.europa.eu/competition/index_en.html
Further information

**The Swedish Competition Act**
Competition Act (2008:579)

**Preparation to the Swedish Competition Act**
Committee on Industry and Trade, Report 2009/10 NU8

Government Bill (2008/09:231), Conflict Resolution in Public Sector Commercial Activities in the Market, etc.

Committee on Industry and Trade, Report 2007/08 NU14

Government Bill (2007/08:135), New Competition Act, etc.

Proposal referred to the Council on Legislation for consideration, New Competition Act, etc.


**Block exemptions**
Block exemptions can be found on the Swedish Competition Authority website.

*Laws on block exemptions*
- Cooperation agreements concerning certain taxi services, SFS 2008:580
- Vertical agreements, SFS 2008:581
- Specialisation agreements, SFS 2008:582
- Agreements concerning research and development, SFS 2008:583
- Vertical agreements in the motor vehicle sector, SFS 2008:584
- Agreements in the insurance sector, SFS 2008:585
- Technology transfer agreements, SFS 2008:586

**Regulations and General Guidelines**
The Swedish Competition Authority has its own Code of Statutes (KKVFS), including Regulations and General Guidelines.

The General Guidelines shall serve as guidance for undertakings in the same way as European Commission Notices, through the Swedish Competition Authority giving its view on certain issues.

KKVFS can be ordered from or viewed at www.konkurrensverket.se.

**Trading prohibition**
Trading prohibition Act (1986:436)

**Cases of the Swedish Competition Authority**
A list of cases currently pending at the Swedish Competition Authority can be found on the Swedish Competition Authority website. The full text of decisions made on cases relating to competition law after 1 September 1998 is available, as are statements of opinion issued by the Swedish Competition Authority.

**Guidance**
When undertakings are determining whether agreements conflict with competition rules, they can seek assistance.
from the EU’s block exemption regulations, Commission Notices and Guidelines on the application of Article 101(3).

The aim of the Guidelines is to guarantee that application is consistent and to provide undertakings with guidance. The Guidelines are a supplement to the guidance provided in the Commission guidelines about various kinds of agreement and its special guidelines about horizontal cooperation agreements and vertical restraints.

The European Union website has other information about rules for undertakings.

**Newsletters**
The electronic newsletter ‘Konkurrens’ [Competition] comes out about once a month and is sent to subscribers free of charge via the Swedish Competition Authority website.

**Information via the county administrative boards**
The county administrative boards have been assigned to promote competition within their respective county. Each county administrative board has a contact person for issues relating to competition. More information is available at www.lst.se and www.konkurrensverket.se.

**Contact details**
The Swedish Competition Authority
tel. +46 (0)8-700 16 00
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www.konkurrensverket.se
The Swedish Competition Rules
– an introduction