

Utdrag ur anförande av Konkurrensverkets generaldirektör Dan Sjöblom i samband med konferens i Bukarest den 31 maj 2013.

Excerpts from the speech of the Director General for the Swedish Competition Authority, Mr Dan Sjöblom, at the European Competition Authorities' conference in Bucharest 31 May 2013.

European Competition Authorities' Plenary Meeting and Conference Panel II – Competition versus regulation in healthcare services

- The role of competition and competition authorities in healthcare services in Europe is increasing. An aging population and increased costs of health care products and services requires a framework that encourages competition and innovative solutions, thus maximizing taxpayers' value-for-money. It is an area where competition authorities can and should play a more prominent role than they have traditionally.
- An ongoing debate in Sweden is to what extent public money, spent on the provision of healthcare services and education, should be reserved for public service providers, or if opening such services to profit-making firms can give greater value for tax-payers money. The need to regulate profit levels, in particular for venture capital firms established in tax havens, has also received attention.
- Equally, the question of how to regulate quality and, perhaps even more importantly, how to ensure sufficient, but yet efficient monitoring and enforcement of quality standards is also the subject of ongoing dialogue.
- Another challenge is to ensure that consumers have sufficient and objective information, so as to make informed choices. This is necessary for the emerging market to function well, and to provide all suppliers with the right incentives to compete on merit. The information problem can be especially hard to solve with regard to services where doctors or public servants have traditionally made the choice for the end consumer/patient.
- In Sweden the Government has empowered the SCA with tools to sanction serious violations of public procurement rules. We have - in addition to Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty - also been empowered with a provision that aims at ensuring competitive neutrality between publicly owned undertakings and private undertakings.