

agenda to end conflicts of interest at DG Competition

- **End the revolving door between DG Competition & economic consultancies and law firms**
 - strictly enforce the code of conduct for officials at DG Competition, also by making sure ex-colleagues stick to cooling-off periods if they go to a private sector with a potential conflict of interest.
 - Offer independent workshops and ethics training to boost an understanding of ethics rules and their importance.
 - Enforce the new travel rules for officials, i.e. third parties should not pay for travel and accommodation except for EU member states, agencies or international organisations like the United Nations.
 - Bring the portion of contract and temporary staff at the chief economist team in line with the administration average. Discourage temporary contracts for staff at the Chief Economist Team, so staff is not concerned about their employment and seeking job offers and business contacts while in function with the Commission.
 - Increase transparency – DG Competition should pro-actively and on a rolling basis communicate about revolving door cases and communicate about which conditions have been put in place to prevent conflict of interests (see for example the UK Advisory Committee on Business Appointments as a possible template).

- **End the privileged access of economic consultancies to DG Competition**
 - Limit the number of pages for submissions to DG Competition on merger cases, so officials cannot be spammed by economic consultancies and law firms.
 - Disclose the name of the author, title and clients behind submissions to DG Competition merger cases.
 - Ensure that economic consultancies working on merger cases on behalf of clients are not contracted on evaluating internal ways of working at DG Competition like in the RBB Economics case.
 - Generally, stop outsourcing sensitive work to private actors. This should include the outsourcing monitoring work of cases.
 - Strictly enforce article 167.1c of the Financial Regulation and exclude all bidders for public contracts who have a vested interest at an early stage.
 - Aim for an arms length relationship with economic consultancies. Keep and publish a list of all meetings with economic consultants.

- **Strengthen civil society's voice in competition policy**
 - Establish an advisory board at DG COMP consisting of representatives of civil society and consumer organisations, and a separate board representing start-ups and SMEs, to counteract the influence of large companies. These boards would advise the Commission on competition policy strategy and enforcement and meet at least twice per year.
 - DG Competition should pro-actively reach out to civil society, truly independent academics in every market survey.
 - Create a page on the DG Competition website dedicated to civil society input.

- Third party status in merger cases and antitrust investigations should become easier to obtain for civil society organisations, as they represent consumers and citizens. DG Competition should pro-actively reach out to civil society, properly independent academics and others to feed in.
- Provide access on equal terms to the data in any data room to economic consultants and to representatives of civil society.s