

Guidelines for supplier board meetings on competition compliance

Background

1. The Board is committed to ensuring that its leadership and members understand and comply with relevant competition rules and regulations.
2. The purpose of these guidelines is to set out some general guidelines for compliance with those laws.
3. The main aim of competition law is to protect and promote the efficient operation of businesses and markets by preserving competition between market participants.
4. This outcome can be undermined if competitors agree to, for example, fix prices, divide markets or allocate customers. Competition laws aim to prevent conduct that might deprive consumers of the benefits of competition.

Recommended guidelines

- Each member will ensure that its representative(s) on the Board who attend meetings of, or are otherwise involved with, the Board have an understanding of competition law risks and have reviewed these competition guidelines, which form part of the Board's Terms of Reference.
- The senior management of each member will be responsible for monitoring its own compliance and the compliance of its representatives and employees with competition law in the context of the Board
- At the start of any meeting of the Board, the Chairman will read out a message to attendees explaining that the meeting should not in any way form the basis of any anti-competitive exchange of information or anti-competitive conduct.
- The Board will keep under regular review its compliance with competition law. This may involve asking competition lawyers to vet in advance agendas for meetings, and potentially to attend meetings. Members are recommended regularly to self-assess their compliance with competition law with reference to their involvement with the Board.
- Any attempt by a member or a member's representative to use a Board meeting or Board resources to engage in any anti-competitive activity is likely to lead to disciplinary measures, including expulsion of that member.

