

## Transparency and Networks: Accounting for Governance in the Competition Sphere

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Networks of competition agencies are now a feature of international competition law enforcement and policy. The nature of these networks varies from little more than occasional talking shops, to knowledge exchange and technical assistance, through to the European competition network which is a highly integrated network of agencies enforcing common rules. One question that emerges from this phenomenon is the transparency and accountability of these networks. To what extent do such networks need to be accountable at all? What degree of transparency is required in their work to ensure such accountability? How does transparency differ as between different networks? What principles are there to determine practice in this field?

This paper seeks to explore (if not answer) the above questions looking at the accountability of these elite governance structures and the need for balance between effectiveness and accountability and what the relationship is, should be and can be between these concerns. In doing so, it brings together literatures on networks (such as Slaughter's seminal work), those on international competition law (e.g. Gerber) and that on transparency of executives (notably Curtin).

The paper builds on earlier work of the author, co-authored with Anestis Papadopoulos which mapped international networks see 'Competition Agency Networks around the World' in Ariel Ezrachi (eds). *Research Handbook on International Competition Law*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar (2012)