



# Energy challenges for European Competition Policy Action

Competition Policy Lab

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\* All views expressed are personal and do not  
commit the European Commission

*Competition*



# Challenges for the energy sector

Relatively higher prices

Security of supply

Incomplete internal market

= > how can competition enforcement and policy contribute to addressing these challenges?



# Competition Enforcement and Policy: the toolbox

Vigorous antitrust enforcement in gas, electricity and oil markets

New Environment & Energy State Aid Guidelines (EEAG) and active State Aid control

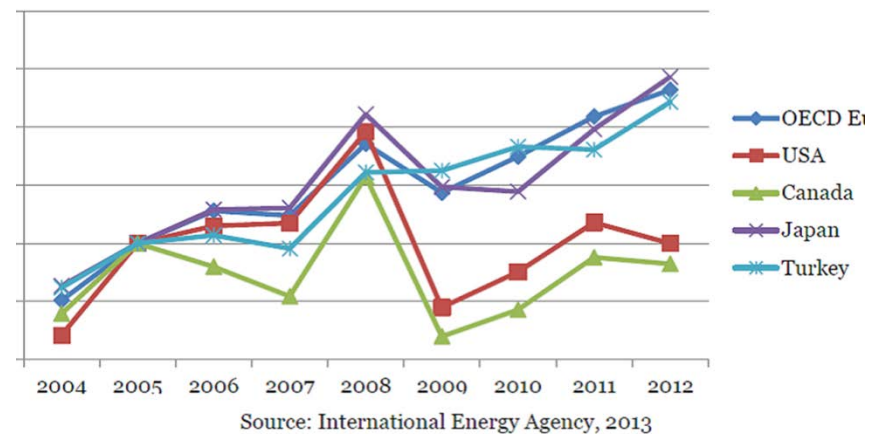
Steady Merger control

# Energy prices - Findings

Highly concentrated  
energy markets

Necessary cost of  
climate change policy

= > High energy prices



=> Impact on  
competitiveness and  
households

## Antitrust

- Tackle excessive pricing
- Ensure adequate price formation mechanisms and benchmarking

## Energy Prices

## State Aid

- Integrate RES into the market
- Introduce market based mechanisms for RES financing
- Alleviate the burden for Energy Intensive Users

## Mergers

- Prevent increased concentration on energy markets

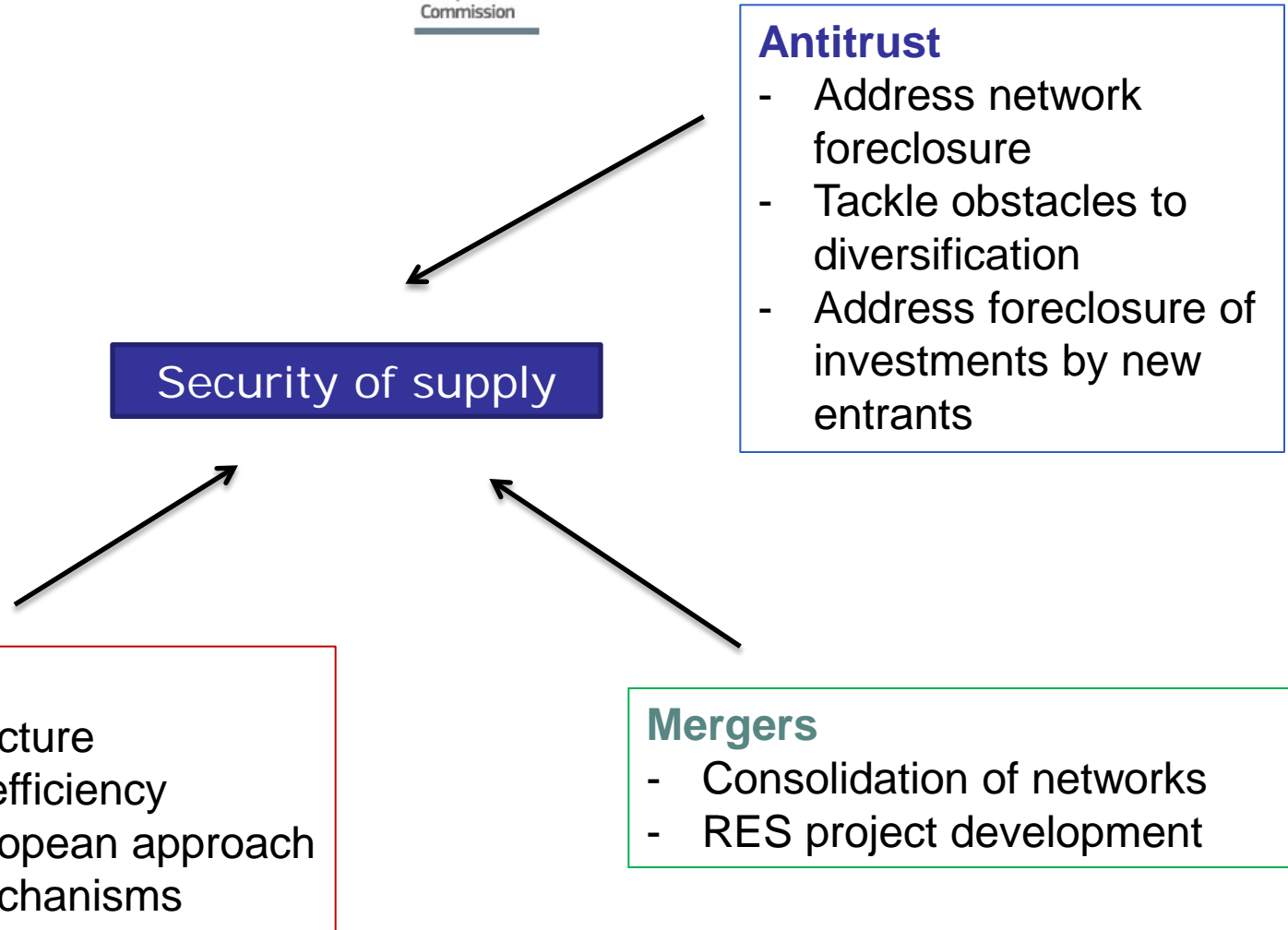


# Security of supply - Findings

Energy dependency of the EU

Persistent network foreclosure

Lack of investments in generation capacity



# Internal market - Findings

Insufficient cross-border competition

National State Aid schemes for electricity generation

- RES
- Capacity mechanisms

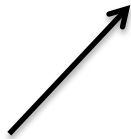


## Antitrust

- Address territorial restrictions
- Prohibit discrimination

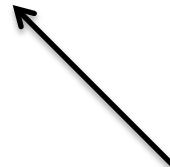


Internal market



## Mergers

- Preserve market structures



## State Aid

- Promote cooperation mechanisms
- Ensure a European approach of capacity mechanisms
- AG opinion in cases C-204/12 to C-208/12 Essent v Flemish Electricity and Gas regulatory Authority



# Conclusion

Energy markets at the cross-road between liberalisation and re-regulation

Competition Law enforcement should ensure that consumers benefit from liberalisation and climate change

Energy will remain high on the competition enforcement agenda under all instruments!



Thank you for your attention!