



Bruegel/ESMT Special Seminar

The future of the motor vehicle block exemption regulation

Presenter: Lars-Hendrik Röller (ESMT - European School of Management and Technology, Berlin)

Discussant: Nadia Calvino (DG COMP, European Commission)

**Friday, 12 June 2009, 10:00 to 12:00, at Bruegel
33, rue de la Charité, B-1210 Brussels**

Dear Ivan Hodac,

The motor vehicle block exemption regulation (MVBBER) is due to expire in May 2010. While many car manufacturers argue that this specific regulation in the automotive sector might no longer be appropriate, there are several market participants contesting this view. Any regulatory change could affect the way new cars are sold, how old cars are serviced and repaired and the distribution of spare parts.

In a recent study entitled “**Do we need a MVBBER? Interaction between non-compete clauses, restrictive contractual arrangements and entry in the European car market**”, the ESMT looks at the focus on the multi-branding provisions in the MVBBER, which put more restrictions on manufacturers than the general vertical block exemption regulation, and attempts to contribute to the current discussion on the use of the MVBBER by balancing the positive and negative effects of such restrictions. The Commission’s decision on the expiry of the MVBBER will come at a time when the automotive industry is suffering from reduced demand due to the ongoing financial crisis. In light of this, the Commission’s decision on the MVBBER will be observed with care by all stakeholders.

Lars-Hendrik Röller is President of ESMT European School of Management and Technology Berlin, and non-resident Senior Fellow at Bruegel. **Nadia Calvino** is Deputy Director General Mergers and Antitrust at the Directorate General for Competition of the European Commission.

The seminar will be chaired by Jean Pisani-Ferry, director of Bruegel.

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