

EC455. The Economics of European Industry.

Workshop 1

Aims

In this workshop we are going to explore the web pages that support this course and engage in collaborative activity that will help the process of identifying a topic to be tackled for assessment 1.

Learning outcomes

After completing the activities from this session you will be able to

- Use the web pages that support this course.
- Critically reflect upon the nature of on-line materials and support available for this unit through classroom discussion.
- Begin the process of critically assessing competition issues using information made available by competition authorities.
- Demonstrate teamwork skills by emailing me with your findings.

Activities

The following activities are to be carried through carefully. Do not rush!

- Fire up your internet browser (These pages seem to work better with Internet Explorer version 4.0 and above)
- Go to <http://www.kevinhinde.com>
- Click on the 'European Industry' button.

You should now be at the homepage for your unit.

Have a look around.

1. Look at the message board
2. Look at the on-line evaluation form
3. Click on the link to buy the text on line
4. Click on the electronic reading list and follow the links.

Suggested time for the above activities – 10 minutes.

- Now we will look at some of the notes.
 1. Click on the unit outline. Note it is in .pdf (which is Adobe Acrobat's 'Portable Document Format) and you will need the Adobe Acrobat Reader to see it. This is usually not a problem because this software is provided free. However, if you don't have it on your machine then you must download it – click on the Adobe Acrobat Reader icon on your unit's home page.

2. Now click on the notes on 'Introduction to Industrial Economics' (again these are in pdf). You can print these off at another time but if you have a disk then why not save them? You will see that there are also some slides for which you require PowerPoint.

Suggested time for the above activities – 10 minutes.

- We will now look at some of the web links associated with this unit.

Go to the 'Web Links' button on the left hand side.

Within this 'Web Links' (I also call it a 'Web Resources') page there is a section entitled 'Regulators around the World'.

You now have to work in teams of three and carry out the following tasks.

Go to the Office of Fair Trading website and download the following:

1. A brief outline of the 1998 Competition Act
2. 2 Press Releases from the OFT concerning collusive behaviour and the abuse of a dominant position (They may relate to the pre-1998 Act if you wish)

Go to the UK Competition Commission site and download

1. A case currently under investigation by the UK Commission outlining why it is being investigated.
2. The judgement (or summary of findings) of a completed case.

Go to the EU Commission DGIV site and download

1. Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty of Amsterdam
2. 2 Press Releases from the Commission concerning collusive behaviour and the abuse of a dominant position.

You are to discuss your findings with the rest of your group. You must then collate your findings and one of you (I will nominate who in the class) must send that information by email to me with copies to other team members.

Your information is to be received by the end of the week.

Other Sources of information

You can also get hold of information on public utility regulation and other national competition authorities from my web links page. This may help you in your final decision about your choice of topic for Assessment 1.