

Questions concerning the application of competition law

to professional associations in your country

1. Which kinds of professions do professional associations in your country regulate?
2. What competences do such associations have (authorization to operate; advertising and promotional activities; price fixing; litigation with clients)?
3. Are members of the public authorities represented on the governing bodies of these associations?
4. Are these associations considered to be “associations of undertakings” in the sense applied in competition law?
5. Does legislation enable these associations to adopt universally binding rules? If so, is the fact that associations adopt such universally binding rules under legislation, together with **associations' special legislative status**, relevant as regards the application of competition law?
6. Does national legislation require these associations to observe public-interest criteria when taking their decisions? Which competences of the associations are not public interest/order related?
7. Can the decisions of these associations be revised in the ordinary courts? If so, to what extent?
8. Does a legal or de facto exemption for the application of competition law to these associations exist in your country? If so, what are the justifications for these exemptions?
 1. Have these associations applied for individual exemptions for their agreements before your national competition authorities? If so, did these authorities clear these agreements? Did they approve the agreements subject to conditions?
 2. Have there been cases in your country where competition law has been applied to these associations? If so, what were the infringements, and what were the remedies or the amount of the fine imposed on the associations?