



EALBF ANTITRUST GUIDELINES

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that all **EALBF** meetings and activities are conducted in compliance with applicable antitrust rules.

EALBF and its members believe that the rules of law and in particular the rules of competition law are paramount.

Antitrust violations may result in heavy fines for corporations, and in fines and even imprisonment for individuals. While **EALBF** provides guidance on antitrust matters, the Members bear the ultimate responsibility for assuring that their actions and the actions of any of those under their direction comply with the antitrust laws.

EALBF and its members (hereinafter referred to as "Members") shall comply strictly with the rules applicable in competition law within the framework of all activities and relationships taking place within or through **EALBF**.

This guidance cannot describe all behaviors to be observed or list all proscribed behavior. Each Member shall be duly aware by its own means about antitrust rules including through advice from their own legal counsels/experts.

The rules of competition law aim to preserve and promote a free and undistorted competition between companies.

They prohibit any agreement or practice between companies consisting in particular pricing, allocation of markets or customers, or to limit production or distribution of industrial and commercial markets, the exclusion of a company from the market (boycott).

Such agreements or practices can be made in a very informal manner. Thus, the mere presence at a meeting at which an exchange of sensitive information would take place between competing companies may suffice to characterize an offense.

Activities organized by **EALBF** (meetings, workshops ...) lead competing firms to meet but also to exclude indirectly nonmembers companies from these activities.

Therefore, during these activities it is essential for Members: (i) to refrain from any discussion, exchange of data or recommendations on topics considered sensitive under the rules of competition law or sensitive information and (ii) to comply with the procedures established for this purpose.