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Incomplete cartels and antitrust policy : incidence and detection

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Publication date
2009

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Citation for published version (APA):

Bos, A. M. (2009). *Incomplete cartels and antitrust policy : incidence and detection*. [Thesis, fully internal, Universiteit van Amsterdam]. Tinbergen Institute.

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Acknowledgments

For a few years now, I have been practicing the art of surfing. In thinking about my time as a Ph.D. student, it struck me that there is an interesting parallel between pursuing a Ph.D. and surfing. In fact, one can view the process of writing a Ph.D. thesis as surfing in the “ocean of ideas”. In both cases, catching a wave requires balance, patience, the ability to be at the right place at the right time, technique and a bit of luck. Waves come in many different forms. Some look good from a distance, but prove useless when they get up close to you. Some are great, but impossible to deal with. Unfortunately, you often realize this too late due to a lack of experience. Occasionally, somebody else is catching a good wave right in front of you. Moreover, once you are on a promising wave, you must go from the bottom to the top and back down again in order to have a successful ride. Finally, you need to have the skills and courage to change direction along the way whenever the circumstances require it. During my time as a Ph.D. student, I have had plenty of rides, both successful and less successful, which culminated in this Ph.D. thesis.

In writing my Ph.D. thesis, I received support from many people, some of whom deserve special mention. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisors Arnoud Boot and Maarten Pieter Schinkel from whom I have learned a lot in many ways. I thank Arnoud for emphasizing the importance of focus and timing, which was much needed. I thank Maarten Pieter, who was my daily supervisor, for his encouragement, advice and patience during all stages of the research process. In particular, he succeeded in convincing me that my inclination to select monster waves only is not very fruitful. It took me a while to realize that starting with the smaller ones is often already challenging enough. More generally, I thank the Amsterdam Center for Law and Economics for providing me with excellent surfing conditions.

As a Ph.D. student, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to train at different surf spots. Part of the research has been conducted at the Department of Economics of the

Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. I thank this Department for its hospitality. I am particularly indebted to Joe Harrington with whom I had many interesting discussions about cartel theory, antitrust policy and, of course, soccer. I have benefited greatly from his expertise and I thank him for his useful comments on my research and, in particular, for his invaluable input to Chapter 3. Special thanks also go to Eelko Ubels for his contribution to Chapter 5. His programming techniques proved increasingly important in understanding the complexities of competitive and collusive basing-point pricing. I have very much enjoyed our uncountable discussions that often went beyond the question of how to trace bases. Furthermore, the quality of the thesis improved significantly due to comments I received from Patrick van Cayseele, Giuseppe Dari-Mattiacci, Jeroen Hinlopen, Jan Tuinstra and Jeroen van de Ven.

Additionally, I wish to express my gratitude to Igor van Loo who provided mental support, very good food and a place to sleep in Amsterdam during the final phase of this thesis. I also thank Martijn Han, who allowed me to stay at his place in Amsterdam during the summer of 2008, and my other “fellow surfers” Mario Bersem, Marie Goppelsröder, Andrea Günster, Floris Heukelom, Marko Lankhorst, Matej Marinc, Jacob Rüggeberg, Francesco Russo and Josephine van Zeven for their valuable input to this thesis and for the many memorable moments during my Ph.D. years. On a more personal level, I wish to thank my father Jaap Bos, my mother Else Bos and my brother Ruben Bos for their unconditional support throughout my life.

Finally, I thank my girlfriend and love of my life Anita van den Berg who surfed with me since the start and with whom I hope to share many epic waves in the future.

Iwan Bos, Maastricht, September 20, 2009.