

Notice on procedures for applying the competition rules of the EEC and the ECSC Treaties (Articles 85 and 86 (EEC) and 65 and 66 (ECSC)).

1. In its Eleventh Report on Competition policy the Commission announced that it envisaged creating the post of Hearing Officer; it has now taken the decision to do so.

To ensure his independence in the performance of his duties, the Hearing Officer will have the right of direct access to the Member of the Commission with special responsibility for competition policy. Administratively he will belong to the Directorate-General for Competition.

The Hearing Officer's task will be to ensure that the hearing is properly conducted and thus to contribute to the objectivity of the hearing itself and of any decision taken subsequently. He will seek to ensure in particular that in the preparation of draft Commission decisions in competition cases due account is taken of all the relevant facts, whether favourable or unfavourable to the parties concerned.

In performing his duties he is to see to it that the rights of the defence are respected, while taking account of the need for effective application of the competition rules in accordance with the regulations in force and the principles laid down by the Court of Justice.

2. Mr Roland Mussard, an official in Grade A 3, has been appointed Hearing Officer with effect from 1 September 1982.
