



EIA Anti-Competitive Policy

Anti-competitive policies are regulations designed to prevent businesses from engaging in practices that unfairly limit competition and harm consumers. These policies are crucial for maintaining fair market conditions and ensuring that no single company can dominate a market to the detriment of others. EIA maintains fair and reasonable representation across the Membership at all times.

In the UK, anti-competitive behavior is regulated by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA). Creating anti-competitive policies and rules for EIA members attending meetings is crucial for maintaining fair practices within the Environmental Industries Association (EIA). The following expectations of our Members when attending meetings, events within the EIA.

1. Prohibition of Price Fixing:

- Members must not engage in discussions or agreements regarding the setting of prices for goods or services.
- Any form of price coordination, including discounts, rebates, or credit terms, is strictly prohibited.

2. Market Allocation:

- Members are forbidden from dividing or allocating markets or customers among themselves.
- Any agreement to limit production or supply to control market share is not allowed.

3. Bid Rigging:

- Members must not collude on bids for contracts or projects.
- All bidding processes should be transparent and competitive.

4. Exchanging Sensitive Information:

- Sharing confidential or commercially sensitive information, such as pricing strategies, customer lists, or market strategies, is prohibited.
- Members should avoid discussions that could lead to anti-competitive behaviour.

5. Exclusive Agreements:

- Members should not enter into exclusive agreements that unfairly limit competition.
- Any agreement that restricts the ability of other members to compete must be avoided.

Rules for Members When Attending Meetings

1. Agenda and Minutes:

- Meetings will have a clear agenda circulated in advance.

- Minutes should be recorded and distributed to all members, ensuring transparency. Meetings are held under Chatham house rule.
- 2. **Avoid Sensitive Topics:**
 - Members should avoid discussing topics that could lead to anti-competitive behavior, such as pricing, market division, or bid strategies.
 - If such topics arise, they should be immediately tabled and not discussed further. The EIA secretariat must be responsible for calling out any concerns and if necessary has authority to halt discussions.
- 3. **Training and Awareness:**
 - Regular training sessions should be conducted to educate members about anti-competitive laws and the importance of compliance.
 - Members should be aware of the consequences of violating these rules.
- 4. **Reporting Mechanism:**
 - Establish a confidential reporting mechanism for members to report any suspected anti-competitive behaviour.
 - Ensure that reports are investigated promptly and thoroughly.
- 5. **Conflict of Interest:**
 - Members must disclose any potential conflicts of interest before meetings.
 - Any member with a conflict should recuse themselves from related discussions and decisions.

Implementing these policies and rules will help the EIA maintain a fair and competitive environment, fostering trust and cooperation among its members. If you need more detailed guidelines or specific legal advice, consulting with a legal expert specialising in competition law would be beneficial.

Visit us for more information on our policies www.EIAssociation.co.uk

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