Dear Mr. Bylund,

Thank you very much for your email dated 29 March 2006 to Commissioner Kroes on the question of legitimating the powers of the Directorate General for Competition of the European Commission. The Commissioner has asked me to answer to you on her behalf.

The purpose of competition policy is to foster competitiveness and growth by effectively prosecuting cartels, abuse of dominance and other anticompetitive practises and preventing anticompetitive mergers. The enforcement of competition rules in the EU is one of the most effective tools that the European Commission has available for the purpose of promoting consumer welfare. Directorate General for Competition's main priority, as the service within the Commission in charge of competition policy, is to provide a level playing field between market players to the benefit of consumers.

For additional information on EC competition law I would like to draw your attention to the following websites: http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/.

Yours sincerely,

Angel Tradacete Cocera