

Discussion on “Revisiting the HMT, and the role of common sense market definitions”

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The market definition debate

- **“Why bother?”** (W. Blumenthal, 2004); **“Why (ever) define markets?”** (L. Kaplow, 2010) .
- Market definition **“Impossible and Counterproductive”** (L.Kaplow, 2013) or **“Possible and Productive”** (G. Werden, 2013)
- **Concept “Existence” in the Industrial Organization Economics** (partial equilibrium)
- **Entwinement of the rational of the HMT and *Direct Assessment* of effects.** A “con”?
 - “Is market definition an input to competitive effects or an output? The answer is probably “Both” or “Neither”: It’s a case of simultaneous determination” (W. Blumenthal)
 - Both pose the same questions, build on the same economic concepts & try to assess market power.
 - The key difference is in the “actor(s)”.

The market definition debate

- **Entry and market dynamics** and evolution
- **Coordinated effects** – structural conditions for internal and external sustainability
- **Conceptual framework** for systematising reasoning and information (mainly, not only)
- Widespread; **established paradigm**: first mover advantage as an established paradigm (Kaplow's claim on the "Nostalgia" of Relevant Market Definition?)

The market definition debate

- Full fledged quantitative exercise of HMT. Implications of the literature?
- Are all the listed cons HMT specific?
- Market share thresholds for notification (e.g., Portugal)
- The debate enlightens us to “**lightening up on market definition**” (D. Evans, 2012)
- **No never, nor always, nor must.** Both conceptually and analytically

Thank you

