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*Interviews  
with Antitrust  
Leaders*

# Interviews with Antitrust Leaders

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*With David S. Evans<sup>1</sup>*



Competition policy has grown explosively in the last quarter century. There are more than 100 countries with competition authorities and many of these authorities are becoming more active, influential, and professional. They are also talking with each other on a regular basis through many formal and informal channels. The managers of these authorities are assuming increasing responsibilities and wearing many hats—not only as regulators but also as advocates of markets. Beginning with this issue, Competition Policy International, in its publications and online, will be showcasing competition authorities through articles, interviews, and other formats.

To begin, we present interviews, conducted in Spring, 2011, with two of the world's most influential antitrust regulators, FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz and European Commission Vice President Joaquín Almunia.

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## I. Interview with Jon Leibowitz, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission

Jon Leibowitz was sworn in as a Commissioner on September 3, 2004, and designated to serve as Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission on March 2, 2009, by President Barack H. Obama.



During his tenure as Chairman, Jon has focused on stopping scams that prey upon consumers suffering from the economic downturn; preserving competition in healthcare and blocking anticompetitive “pay-for-delay” patent settlements in the pharmaceutical industry; promoting competition and innovation in the technology sector through law enforcement and policy initiatives; and protecting consumers’ privacy—especially while they are using the Internet.

In this interview, Jon discusses a wide range of topics—from privacy, to last-dollar frauds, to the Intel case—and even why he has rap music on his iPad.

*Listen to David Evans’ interview with Chairman Leibowitz:*

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## II. Interview with Joaquín Almunia, EU Commissioner, Directorate-General for Competition



On 27 November 2009, José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, nominated Joaquín Almunia, to serve as the new Competition Commissioner.

Vice President Almunia noted, “As Competition commissioner, I’m here to ensure that competition policy delivers for consumers and for businesses. To that end I will focus on fighting against cartels, preventing dominant companies from abusing their market power in any sector or any country in Europe, and maintaining a rigorous scrutiny of proposed mergers. I also intend to further consider how to achieve effective compensation for victims of illegal antitrust behavior.”

In this interview, Jon discusses a wide range of topics—from cartel enforcement and level of fines, to dealing with rapidly changing markets—and even revealing his fondness for American blues music.

*Listen to David Evans’ interview with Commissioner Almunia:*

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