

Competition

What do I need to know before I start?

With the creation of a common market for coal and steel, it was necessary to establish a public authority that would regulate this market, severely distorted by cartels, trade barriers, as well as price discrimination. Antitrust provisions were therefore included in the Treaty of Paris, which created the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). The Treaty of Rome, signed in 1957, established the European Economic Community (EEC) and comprised competition policy provisions that were to be applicable beyond the specific industrial sectors regulated in the ECSC. In the historiography on European integration, the period between 1950 and 1962 is considered as the foundational period of today's European competition policy, both in terms of ideology and institutions.

Languages: Please be aware that although most documents available in our Archives are in French, English or German, some may be in other EU languages. In order to check the languages used in a fond, please refer to our holdings page. Additionally, some fonds may contain a few files in a language other than the ones listed in the description.

What can I find at the HAEU?

Related specifically to European competition polity-building and policy-making, the fonds available at the HAEU are:

1) *EU Institutions*

[ECSC High Authority](#) and the [Special Council of Ministers of the ECSC](#)

For early developments of competition policy, you may look into the inventory of the ECSC High Authority, particularly in the sections '[Marché et problèmes industriels: charbon](#)', '[Marché et problèmes industriels: acier](#)' and '[Division Economie et Energie](#)', as well as in the inventory of the ECSC Special Council of Ministers. Both inventories do not include a specific section on competition policy but it should be kept in mind that the Treaty of Paris establishing the ECSC already included several antitrust provisions whose interpretation was then debated among the Member States until the negotiations leading to the Treaty of Rome establishing the EEC.

[Council of Ministers](#)

In the HAEU inventory, competition matters discussed in the Council of Ministers are assembled in the section '*Activités de la CEE : Politique commerciale*'. The fonds of the Council of Ministers being organized by years, you need to browse the sub-fonds of each separate year to access the specific section on competition ([example](#) for the year 1963).

[Commission](#)

In the Commission's fonds, you will find a specific section for the [DG IV Competition](#). Some files within the section for the [DG III Economic and financial affairs](#) also refer to the settling of concerned disputes. In addition, you might want to look into the sections related to [economic matters](#) in general and to the [Secretariat-General](#) and the [Cabinets](#).

[European Parliament](#)

The Parliament's fonds include two sections '[Commission économique et monétaire](#)' and '[Commission économique, monétaire et de la politique industrielle](#)' that include respectively the proceedings and the reports of the parliamentary committee for economic and monetary affairs addressing competition policy in Europe during the Parliament's first legislature (1979-1984) second legislature (1984 – 1989) and third legislature (1989 – 1994).

In the collection of Press Cuttings (CPPE), you will find a specific section related to "[Economique, monétaire et politique industrielle](#)" with a selection of articles regarding this topic.

[European Court of Auditors](#)

The ECA's annual reports (1977-1997), special reports (1978-1991) and opinions (1977-1997) may be relevant to the subject matter of competition, as well as other internal documents, including information documents (1977-1994) and working documents (1977-1994), where you will find, for example, files dealing with the European internal market and the [Office for harmonization of the internal market](#).

[European Court of Justice](#)

Certain ECJ dossiers could be useful, such as the sentence of 1979, better known as the Case of ‘[Cassis de Dijon](#)’ through which the ECJ confirmed the principle of the free circulation of products, the [258/78 affair](#) about ‘licences végétales, droit d’obtention’, and the [253/78, 1-3/79 joint affairs](#) about competition and perfumes.

[European Investment Bank](#)

You may consult the ‘[projets](#)’, ‘[Aides, dons et subsides exceptionnels](#)’ and [publications](#) ‘sub-fonds’, where you can find documents dealing with the integration of new markets and specific files about [EIB and enterprise](#).

[Economic and Social Committee](#)

Similarly to the fonds of the Council of Ministers, the inventory is organized by years, each including a specialized section on economic affairs ([example](#) for the year 1959).

2) *Corporate Bodies*

[Organisation for European Economic Cooperation \(OEEC\)](#)

In the OEEC’s fonds, you can find specific sections on economic and free trade matters, which are also closely related to competition policy in Europe.

[Political Groups of the European Parliament](#)

The [fonds of EPP Group \(PPE\)](#) include a section for the Standing working group on Economic and monetary. You will find Minutes of the committee's meetings and Plenary notes for 1999 to 2004.

3) *Individuals*

[Emile Noel](#)

His private fonds do not include a specific section on competition policy but offers valuable information in this context, as it includes papers on [European commercial and monetary policy](#), as well as Noel’s various notes on the European Council’s and the Commission’s meetings (among many other things that can be useful).

[Philip Lowe](#)

Philip Lowe having been director of the Merger Task Force and later Director-General for Competition, his private fonds include a section specifically on the [Merger Task Force](#) and a more substantive one on the [DG for Competition](#).

[Peter Sutherland \(Commission Papers\)](#)

Peter Sutherland's papers concern his four-year term as Commissioner for Competition, Social Affairs, Education and Training. The private fonds include therefore a significant amount of documents related to competition policy in Europe.

4) Oral History

In addition, take a look at the [oral history holdings](#), which comprise numerous interviews of European politicians and officials, including important figures and officials active in the development of competition policies at the European level. Below, you can find a list of persons interviewed who addressed the topic of competition policy at the European level.

[Abate, Antonio and Waegenbaur, Rolf](#)

[Andriessen, Frans](#)

[Brackeniers, Eduard](#)

[Cadieux, Jean-Louis](#)

[Day, Catherine](#)

[Degimbe, Jean](#)

[Dubois, Jean](#)

[Froschmaier, Franz](#)

[Giacomello, Giacomo](#)

[Junger, Jean-Marie](#)

[Marchini-Camia, Antonio](#)

[Mark, Eric](#)

[Mathijssen, Petrus](#)

[Messina, Carmelo](#)

[Piccarolo, Marco](#)

[Rencki, Georges](#)

[Rocca, Gianfranco](#)

[Temple Lang, John](#)

[Ungerer, Herbert](#)

[Ventura, Sergio](#)

[Verstrynge, Jean-Francois](#)

[Waterschoot, Paul](#)

[Wathelet, Pierre](#)