



# **DRAFT OF RETAIL PHARMACY BUSINESSES (REGISTRATION) RULES 2008**

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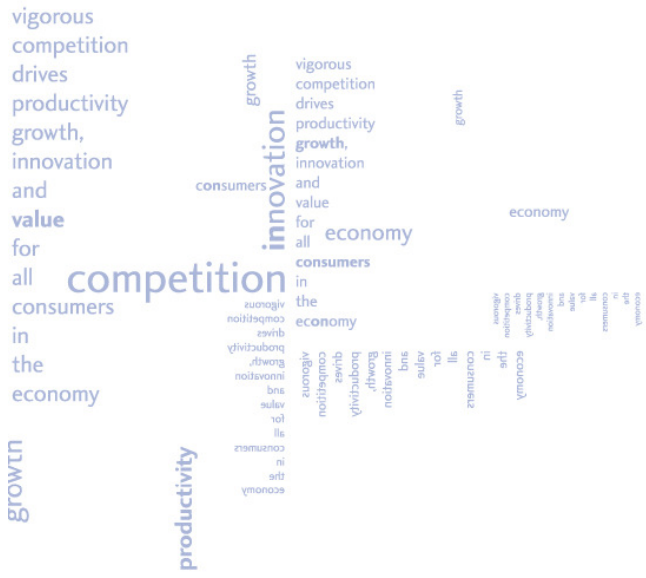
## **Comments of the Competition Authority**

### **Rules as they apply to pharmacy chains**

- 1.1 Draft Regulation 4(4) provides that a separate application for registration must be made for each premises in which a retail pharmacy business is to be carried on. Requiring a completely separate application for registration for every single outlet appears disproportionate and duplicative; where a number of pharmacy outlets are owned by a single entity, it should be made clear that it is possible to submit a single application giving all the information required by the Rules in the case of each premises.
- 1.2 For example, where a single entity owns 20, 40, 60 or 100 outlets, there is of course an obvious need to give details of siteplans, floorplans, etc., but this can readily be given in one 'package', and should not need to be given in each case separately.
- 1.3 Details of the ownership of multiple outlets should only be required once.
- 1.4 Paragraph 1(1) of the Schedule would require the name of the pharmacy owner to be given, and his or her private residential address. While private residential\_address details may not be a problem where outlets are owned by a sole trader, partnership or private limited company, there would clearly be problems in the case of multiple outlets owned by a PLC. Apart from the obvious problem that a PLC share register may not have these details in any event, it appears disproportionate to require private details of what may be hundreds, if not thousands, of shareholders, to be given.

### **Registration of existing businesses**

- 1.5 The draft Rules do not appear to provide for the initial registration of pharmacy businesses existing on the date the Rules come into force. The Rules should be clarified in this respect.



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