Mr Chairman, dear guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you at the ninth Ascola conference here at the premises of the Polish Competition Authority.

There are a number of reasons why I am delighted this conference takes place here. Please believe me that the fact that it saved me and my colleagues travel time is not among them. We would have gone a long way to be able to attend such an excellent gathering.

The main reason is that this conference fits into what we perceive to be essential components of our mission.

First, it is the fostering of dialogue with the academia on the application of competition law. We are committed to seeking best practices in the global network of law experts and fellow competition authorities.

Second, pursuing procedural fairness, the topic of today's conference, is a key priority in our newly redefined mission statement. This is because we are convinced that procedural fairness in our dealing with companies is essential to make the competition law and our decision process transparent.

This transparency, in turn, is a factor which should help make competition law beneficial to our country's development and serve its fundamental purpose -- increase consumer welfare.

In this context, I'd like to share with you my personal reflection.

A friend of mine, who was for years a Reuters correspondent covering competition issues in Brussels and now runs an advisory firm, wrote to me a few days ago to say he just came back from an interesting discussion at the American Antitrust Institute in Washington.

The main message of the conference was that competition agencies need to improve their economic tools to keep up with the forms of industrial organisation which have evolved over the last decade or two.

I wholeheartedly agree. Our ability to understand how companies operate in the changing global environment, how markets and technology evolve is key to make right and fair enforcement decisions.

In my personal opinion, knowledge about markets, companies and wider economic context is absolutely crucial if we want to be successful in implementing procedural fairness.

A Competition Authority confident in its knowledge and understanding of the complexities of markets and technological innovation will have the will and ability to enforce law in a transparent, fair way.

Deficit of economic understanding, lack of familiarity with markets will sap confidence and therefore be detrimental to procedural fairness and ultimately lead to failure in delivering consumer welfare.

It is our resolve here at the Polish Competition Authority to avoid such risk.

I wish you a very good discussion.

Thank you for your attention.