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# Report for COMCO Internship at The Swiss Competition Commission

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**REPORT  
INTERNSHIP AT THE SWISS COMPETITION COMMISSION  
(COMCO)**

**by**

**Romel Brun<sup>1</sup>**

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**I.- INTRODUCTION**

Bolivia is a country without markets tradition and an incipient development of competition policies. In that frame and with the purpose to fortifying the Bolivian Government, in the task to define and implement Competition Policies and Defence of the Consumer, I completed an internship at the Swiss Competition Commission (Comco) from July 4<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

This training contemplated a series of activities like 1) the participation in the resolution of cases, 2) the attending of Commission and Secretariat sessions and 3) a series of interviews with people related with the issue of competition and defence of consumer.

**II.- THE INTERNSHIP**

**1.- Resolution of Cases**

During this period, I had the opportunity to participate actively in the resolution of cases against cartels, with emphasis in merger controls. One of the key elements of the internship was the possibility of working with people understood in the matter, who always were available to absolve doubts. Another element that upgrade the training was the unrestricted access to a series of specialized reviews and articles that helped to the understanding of the phenomenon of the Competition and to the resolution of the cases.

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<sup>1</sup> Economist, Ministry of Economic Development

Furthermore, I had the opportunity to expose a study case-wheat flour- to the Comco's economic staff. The purpose of the exposition was to receive commentaries, suggestions to improve the approach of this study.

## **2.- The Sessions**

The attending of the Service "Product Markets", for which I worked, and the Commission sessions were of extreme importance. With those, we can have a better understanding of how it operate in practice a competition agency, that is really important for its design in an economy like the Bolivian.

Moreover, I could identify the fundamental characteristics of a competition agency, like a) the independence from the political power, b) the transparency of decisions took and c) the high professional quality of its employees. Aspects that should take into account by policymakers.

## **3. Interviews**

As the attending regular sessions and the participation in the resolution of cases, the interviews that I maintained with institutions related to the issue of competition and defence of consumer, like "The Swiss price supervisor" and "The Swiss office for consumer's matters", was an extraordinary complement. With those, a greater political understanding related to the defence of the competition and defence of the consumer is made possible.

Further, I maintained some other interviews with professionals related to the area of Competition Polices of the UNCTAD. In that occasion the following subjects were approached: a) the design of a Competition agency, b) the design of a law of competition for developing countries and c) the relation between the Competition Policy and Industrial Policy, specially the way to conciliate both policies.

## **III.- CONCLUSION**

The theoretical and practitioners aspects of the internship were of much utility, since we can obtain a more fit vision of how to implement public policies related to the Defence of the Competition and Defence of the Consumer.

This training gave to me the possibility to improve the understanding of the phenomenon of Competition and in this way to be able to contribute to the discussion in the design of the Policy of Competition and Defence of the Consumer in Bolivia.

I would like to thank all the people of COMCO, SECO and the UNCTAD to make possible the implementation of this program, specially to Ana Maria Álvarez, Pierre Horna, Jean Pierre Cuendet, Katrin Emmenegger and Sabrina Carron.