

Managing Entry & Competition in regulated industries

Club of Regulators Conference on "Disruptive Business Models and Regulation" Paris, 3 November 2016

Alberto Biancardi Commissioner, The Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas and Water



Autorità per l'energia elettrica il gas e il sistema idrico

In the good old times...

Issued in 2009, the 3rd EU Energy Package is a framework based on two pillars; the first one....

Infrastructure

Leading role of Regulation to prevent market failures

- Natural monopolies
- **Externalities**
- Asymmetrical information

Little room for **Competition**

(Competition for the market)

Main Outputs

- Unbundling
- **Tariff Setting** \bullet
- Quality of service



In the good old times...

... and the second one...

Energy Markets

Residual role for **Regulation** to prevent market failure

- Asymmetrical information
- (Externalities)



Main Outputs

- Organized Markets
- Quality Commercial Serv.
- Standards

Constraints Public services Obligations

Low Carbon Economy

Social Issues



In the good old times...

Regulation had a (rather) well-established approach



Moreover:

- Free entry and exit in Energy Markets
- Selected procedures for Infrastructures (competitive bidding, etc.)



Nowadays

.. but two terrific rule changers irrupted in the calm waters of regulation...





Nowadays





Nowadays

New technologies are reducing transaction costs and widening the possibilities to exchange and share information

"aside from transaction costs, the prevailing outcome will be efficient"

The <u>Coase Theorem</u> states that, when conflicting property rights occur, bargaining between the parties involved will lead to an efficient outcome regardless of which party is ultimately awarded the property rights, as long as the transaction costs associated with bargaining are negligible.

Specifically, the Coase Theorem states that "if trade in an externality is possible and there are no <u>transaction costs</u>, bargaining will lead to an efficient outcome regardless of the initial allocation of property rights."



Open Points

- New role for self-regulation
- Regulation more focused on targets than on tools
- Blurring boundaries between regulation and competition, while growing interaction between planning and regulation too
- Doubts about:
 - the entailment itself to impose a target by a public body (in case of no more need to regulate)
 - the right to use a tool by a firm (in case of persistence of need to regulate)
- Consequences on entry and exit
- Evidence collected up to now by Pilot projects on smart grids



Thank you for your kind attention!

abiancardi@autorita.energia.it