

# Arbitration and Competition Law

Enforcement of Arbitral Awards and Public Policy

Renato Nazzini 13 November 2009



#### The Problem

- Arbitrability
  - Mitsubishi Motors Corp v Soler Chrysler-Plymouth Inc, 473 US 614 (1985)
  - ET Plus SA v Welters [2005] EWHC 2115 (Comm)
- EU competition rules are rules of public policy
  - Case C-126/97, Eco Swiss China Time Ltd v Benetton International NV, [1999] ECR I-3055
- Arbitral tribunals are not courts or tribunals of the Member States
  - Case102/81 Nordsee Deutsche Hochseefischerei GmbH v Reederei Mond Hochseefischerei Nordstern AG & Co KG [1982] ECR 1095
- Review of arbitral awards
  - At the seat of the arbitration
  - In the country where enforcement is sought



## Structure of the Presentation

- Litigation and arbitration compared
- Enforcement of arbitral awards
  - Minimalist and maximalist approaches
  - Enforcement proceedings and EU law
- The tribunal's best endeavours duty to make an enforceable award
- Conclusion

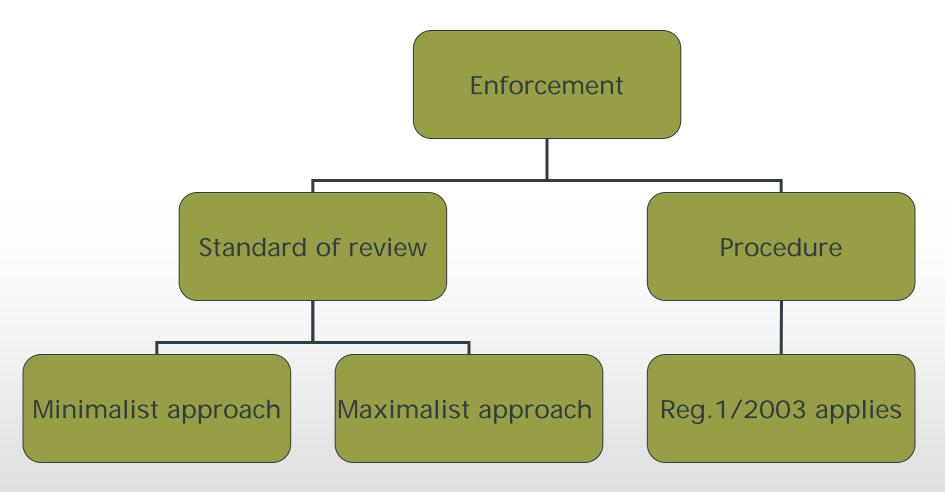


## Litigation and Arbitration Compared

| Litigation   | Arbitration  |
|--|--|
| Power/duty to make a reference under Art 267 TFEU  | Nordsee v Rederei Mond   |
| Intervention of EU Commission/NCAs under Art 15(3) Reg. 1/2003                                 | Not applicable but may be in the discretion of the tribunal or at the parties' joint request |
| Binding effect of decisions of the EU<br>Commission under Art 16(2) Reg. 1/2003                | Art 288 TFEU?  |
| Power to request information or opinion of<br>the EU Commission under Art 15(1) Reg.<br>1/2003 | Not applicable but may be in the discretion of the tribunal or at the parties' joint request |
| Stays under Art 16(1) Reg. 1.2003  | Not applicable but may be in the discretion of the tribunal or at the parties' joint request |
| Duty to raise issues <i>ex officio</i> between effectiveness and equivalence                   | Party autonomy?  |



## **Enforcement of Arbitral Awards**





## Minimalist or Maximalist Approach?

- Thalès c/ Euromissile, CA Paris, 18 November 2004
  - public policy no exception to the 'interdiction d'une révision au fond'
  - refusal of enforcement justified only if the violation of public policy is 'flagrante, effective et concrète'
  - followed/applied by SNF SAS c/ Cytec Industries BV, CA Paris, 23 marzo 2006 e Cour de Cassation, 4 June 2008, n 680; Jean-Louis Jacquetin c/ La Société Intercaves SA, CA Paris, 22 January 2009
- La SNF SAS c/ La CYTEC Industrie, Tribunal de Première Instance de Bruxelles, 8 March 2007, appeal allowed in La SNF SAS c/ La CYTEC Industrie, CA Brussells, 22 June 2009
- A third way: Terra Armata S.r.l. c/ Tensacciai Spa, CA Milan, 5 July 2006



## **Enforcement Proceedings and EU Law**

- Enforcement courts in the EU are subject to Reg. 1/2003 and Art 267
  TFEU
- Effect of a previous decisions of the EU Commission
  - stays
- Intervention of the EU Commission?
- Implications
  - risk of the award being set aside
  - duties of the arbitrators in the arbitral proceedings



## **Duties and Powers of the Tribunal**

- Tribunal's best endeavours duty to make an enforceable award as a prospective test
- Procedural consequences
  - effect of a previous decisions of the EU Commission
  - stays
  - intervention of the EU Commission
  - application of EU competition law ex officio



### **Conclusions**

- Are the private nature and dispute resolution function of arbitration suited to dealing with competition law disputes?
- Minimalist or maximalist approaches at the enforcement
  - which approach is right?
  - why does it matter?
- Is 'judicialisation' of arbitration a solution?
- Application of Reg. 1/2003 in enforcement proceedings
- Does the existence of a public enforcement mechanism make a difference?



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