

Roy, Lauren

From: Blanch, Belinda on behalf of Adjudication
Sent: Monday, 21 April 2008 11:24 AM
To: Chisholm, Shane; Roy, Lauren
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 18 April 2008 8:15 PM
To: Adjudication
Subject: ebay policy

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Hi,

I believe the new ebay 'security' policy of allowing PayPal only is clearly anti-competitive. I have been a member on ebay since 1999, buying and selling quite regularly. I have never had a problem with using direct deposit, which is the main payment option I offer as a seller. It is easy to use and incurs no fees for either buyer or seller. It is also very safe, as a seller I only ship when I have received the funds in my bank account. I have had a non-paying bidder once and obviously if the winning bidder has no intention to pay, it doesn't matter if it is Paypal or another payment method. Similarly, I had no issues paying for items via Direct Deposit.

If ebay gets away with this (and I believe they are testing the waters in Australia), then the competition watchdog has clearly failed. I don't know what ebay's market share of the online auction market really is, in my mind it is 100%. I wouldn't consider another auction site, as when you sell stuff that doesn't 'fly off the shelves', you need the largest possible number of potential buyers to even attract a few bids. So naturally both buyers and sellers will gravitate to just one auction site. Now that ebay's is facing a situation where its natural growth potential has been exhausted, they are trying to use a near-monopoly position to impose anti-competitive rules to ensure their profit growth continues.

I am not familiar with the trade practices act, but it would seem absurd to me if ebay would get away with this. Given that they have applied for an 'exemption', they are clearly aware that their behaviour can be seen as anti-competitive.

Kind Regards
 Peter Lanius

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