



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, 21st Session

Side event: Competition in maritime transport

Thursday, 6 July 2023 (14:00 - 14:45)

Palais des Nations, Room XXVI (First Floor), Geneva, Switzerland

The container shipping sector has over the last decades seen a process of consolidation, including through mergers and acquisitions. In addition, many carriers collaborate through consortia and alliances. One-quarter of countries, including many small island developing states, are today serviced by four or fewer container carriers.

In order to support and encourage competition among carriers, UNCTAD in its latest Review of Maritime Transport 2022 recommended that smaller and vulnerable economies be supported through capacity building for national regulators, and competition and port authorities. Alliances and consortia should be included in competition assessments; competition authorities should clarify what alliances and consortia can legally do. Vertical integration of carriers can contribute to modernizing facilities and improving services, but they can also potentially create problems of access or discriminatory treatment for competing users of port facilities. Dealing with cross-border anti-competitive practices requires international cooperation for which the appropriate mechanism is the United Nations Set of Principles and Rules on Competition (<https://unctad.org/topic/competition-and-consumer-protection/the-united-nations-set-of-principles-on-competition>).

Source: UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport 2022, <http://unctad.org/RMT>

WORK PROGRAMME

14:00 - 14:30

Moderator

- Mr. Jan Hoffmann, Head, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Speakers

- Mr. Djallal Benkhelifa, Rapporteur, Algerian Competition Council
- Mr. Sean van Dort, Chairman, Global Shippers' Forum
- Mr. John Butler, President and CEO, World Shipping Council
- Ms. Andrea Tang, International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA)

14:30 - 14:45

Questions and comments from the floor

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Jan.Hoffmann@UNCTAD.org.