

8 July 2025, 10:00 - 12:30 (CEST)**Geneva, Switzerland****Venue: Room XIX, E-Building, Palais des Nations**

Competition law and policy and global food value chains

Global food value chains play an important role in achieving food security and ensuring affordability of food prices, and the livelihoods of farmers and communities. Consumers bear the consequences of any anti-competitive practices in terms of higher prices, reduced availability and choice, or lower quality in food markets.

Competition policy is also essential to ensure the long-term economic and social sustainability of food value chains, by mitigating abusive practices resulting from vertical relationships in the presence of pervasive market power. For example, when smallholder producers supply inputs to downstream stakeholders with significant buyer power such as intermediaries or large food companies. Therefore, there is need for competitive and fair food markets.

Highly concentrated segments of global food value chains are dominated by a handful of enterprises that can exercise pricing power in multiple national markets. This concentration has resulted from both horizontal and vertical integration of large companies, notably including in the upstream segments of these value chains, like agricultural inputs.

In the trading segments of certain food value chains, the increase in concentration has also been accompanied by an increase in the role large food trading firms play in the provision of financial services associated to this trade with trade and production. The growing role of financial institutions and activities in the food trading system also raises concerns about the role of different regulators in ensuring fair, transparent and competitive food markets. Dealing with market concentration in global food value chains requires a holistic policy approach. Such an approach requires examining closely these firms' strategies to increase market share, secure finance and attract investment, paving the way for high levels of market power and concentration. It also requires a reflection on the effective use of competition policy and law enforcement, especially through vigorous merger control regimes, to address vertical and horizontal policy challenges in these markets.

This session brings together competition experts and officials to discuss the role of competition law and policy in achieving fair and sustainable food markets. The panellists will address the question on how competition law and policy can contribute to ensuring market transparency, enhancing innovation and achieving long-term economic sustainability in global food value chains.





Programme

10:00 - 11:45 **Speakers**

- Mr. Rodrigo Carcamo-Diaz, Chief of Section, Commodities Branch, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Ms. Anastasia Nesvetailova, Head, Macroeconomic and Development Policies Branch, UNCTAD
- Ms. Doris Tshepe, Commissioner, Competition Commission of South Africa, South Africa
- Ms. Natalie Harsdorf, Director General, Austrian Competition Authority, Austria
- Mr. Ahmed Rahhou, President, Competition Council of Morocco, Morocco
- Ms. Hara Nikolopoulou, Vice- President, Hellenic Competition Commission, Greece
- Ms. Eleanor Fox, Walter J. Derenberg Professor of Trade Regulation Emerita, New York University School of Law
- Mr. Alexey Ivanov, Director, BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre

Moderator

- Mr. David Anderson, Partner, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP, Brussels, Belgium

11:45 - 12:30 **Interactive debate**

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