

Round Table on Recent Developments in Merger Control Standards

Friday, 5 July 2024 (10:00 - 12:00)
Palais des Nations, Room XIX (Third Floor)

Merger control has always been an important pillar of competition policy, but it has become increasingly important in recent years as the pace of technological innovation in each field is accelerating. Especially, with the emergence of large digital platform companies and new concepts in the digital economy, such as the value of data, network effects, interoperability, and the notion of ecosystems, there is a need to reexamine the traditional merger control standards.

In response to these challenges, many competition authorities have improved or are working on improving their jurisdiction's merger control standards. Attempts to improve these merger control standards mainly include adjustment of the merger review thresholds, closer review against mergers that do not fall under horizontal or vertical mergers and strengthening control of elimination of nascent competitive threats.

Of course, it is difficult to find a “one-size-fits-all” merger control policy that can be appropriate for all jurisdictions because the competition regulations may depend on the legal tradition, available resources, level of experience and culture of each country. However, international and regional cooperation is very crucial to form a global consensus on merger control standards since the business combination of a global digital company affects markets in various jurisdictions.

This session will discuss recent developments and initiatives of merger control standards in each jurisdiction to address the changes in the global economy and the best policy options for merger control to prevent excessive market concentration without stifling innovation, especially for developing countries.

Issues to consider for discussions:

- (i) What are the recent developments to respond to the challenges to merger control enforcement in the changing global economy?
- (ii) What merger control policies can help developing countries effectively address the challenges of competition harm caused by mergers?
- (iii) How can international and regional cooperation contribute to better address merger cases that have a global impact?

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WORK PROGRAMME

10:00 - 10:05 **Introduction by the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat**

10:05 - 11:25 **Speakers**

- Mr. Eduardo Gonzalez, President, National Competition Commission, Paraguay
- Ms. Lolibeth Ramit-Medrano, Commissioner, Philippine Competition Commission, Philippines
- Ms. Barbara Schulze, Head of International Unit, Bundeskartellamt, Germany
- Mr. John Elias, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice, United States
- Mr. Seokwoo Ahn, Senior Deputy Director, Korea Fair Trade Commission, Republic of Korea
- Mr. David Anderson, Partner, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP, Brussels
- Prof. Francisco Hernandez Rodriguez, University of Santiago de Compostela

11:25 - 12:00 **Interactive debate**

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UN Trade and Development secretariat accordingly by contacting Mr. Juan Luis Crucelegui (juanluis.crucelegui@un.org) and Mr. Sung Kyoong Kim (sung.kim@un.org).