

Enforcing Competition Law in Digital Markets and Ecosystems: Policy Challenges and Options

Thursday, 4 July 2024 (15:00 - 17:30)
Palais des Nations, Room XIX (Third Floor)

In the 21st century, the world has witnessed an unprecedented transformation driven by the rapid development of the digital economy. Digital platforms have contributed to technological developments and given rise to new business models and novel services. During the pandemic, the increasing use of online services has further allowed digital platforms to grow larger and more powerful. This transformation entailed challenges and risk, especially high levels of concentration in digital markets, embodied by global big tech companies.

Competition authorities have identified the risks posed to competition by digital platforms and digital ecosystems and have been making efforts to address them. They have grappled with the challenge of striking a balance between mitigating the detrimental effects of conduct which restricts competition in the digital markets and promoting innovation by digital platforms. Furthermore, they need to consider the effects that digitalisation and the enormous power of big platforms is having on the social, economic, and financial stability of the system. This may imply the need to focus of competition policy towards more ambitious objectives considering economic and social development to tame economic power driven by economic efficiency considerations but also by social justice.

To achieve these goals, competition authorities have to interact with regulators of data protection, consumer protection, electronic communications and financial markets to jointly address the challenges brought up by the digital revolution. Moreover, challenges arising from the digital markets require a global approach because the digital economy is having a far-reaching impact in markets and societies around the world.

This session will explore recent competition cases, initiatives and developments in the digital economy, and discuss how to complement competition law and regulation to achieve not only fair competition in digital markets but fostering innovation and strong, sustainable and inclusive growth. The session will further discuss the best policy options to address competition issues in digital markets especially for developing countries and the roles of international and regional organisations.

Issues to consider for discussions:

- (i) What are the main challenges that competition authorities, particularly recently established ones, face in competition law enforcement on digital markets?
- (ii) What are the best policy options to address competition issues in digital markets, especially for developing countries? Should a new approach of competition policy be undertaken?
- (iii) What is the role of international organizations, especially UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in supporting developing countries dealing with competition issues in digital markets?

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WORK PROGRAMME

15:00 - 15:10 **Presentation by the UN Trade and Development secretariat**

15:10 - 16:40 **Speakers**

- Dr. Cristina Caffarra, Vice Chair, Competition Research Policy Network
- Ms. Kumiko Tanaka, Deputy Secretary General, Japan Fair Trade Commission, Japan
- Ms. Filomena Chirico, Head of Unit, DG Connect, European Commission, European Union
- Mr. Nuno Cunha Rodrigues, President, Portuguese Competition Authority, Portugal
- Mr. Jose Eduardo Mendoza, Commissioner, Federal Economic Competition Commission, Mexico
- Mr. Victor Oliveira Fernandes, Commissioner, Administrative Council for Economic Defense (CADE), Brazil
- Mr. Paul O'Brien, Counsel, Federal Trade Commission, United States
- Prof. Ioannis Lianos, Professor of Global Competition Law and Public Policy, Faculty of Laws, University College London
- Ms. Marianela Lopez Galdos, Competition Policy Director, Meta
- Alibaba (TBC)

16:40 - 17:30 **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), Mr. Yves Kenfack (yves.kenfack@un.org) and Mr. Sung Kyoon Kim (sung.kim@un.org).