



In partnership with



UNCTAD-UNECE Regional Policy Dialogue on the role of Competition Policy in supporting MSMEs economic recovery in the post COVID19 crisis

**25 March 2021
10:00-13:00 CET**

Programme

The UNCTAD Regional Policy Dialogue is an interactive discussion organised in collaboration with UNECE and in partnership with the BRICS Competition and Policy Center. This Regional Dialogue will bring together representatives and officials of government MSME bodies, as well as competition authority representatives from across the region to discuss how competition policy could support MSMEs in their recovery post COVID-19 with a specific focus on market access. The event will prioritise sharing experiences and best practices that have emerged during this crisis. The event will be held via Zoom and include simultaneous multilingual interpretation in English and Russian. This is an invitation-only event.

The Regional Policy Dialogue will be held through a virtual webinar on **March 25th 2021 at 10:00-13:00 CET**.

Please register your interest to join the ZOOM webinar hosted by UNCTAD using this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hQ_3iEndQI2UISIlrguGEw

25 March 2021

Sessions

10:00-10:30 CET

Opening remarks

- Ms. Tatiana Krylova, Head of Enterprise Branch, UNCTAD
- Ms. Teresa Moreira, Head of Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD
- Mr. Mika Vepsäläinen, Chief Market Access, UNECE
- Mr. Alexey Ivanov, Director, BRICS Competition Policy Center

(Moderation: UNCTAD)

10:30-10:50 CET

Presentations

- Recommendations of the UNCTAD Global Report “How COVID-19 Affects MSME Access To Markets and Competition: A Review of Key Issues and Recommendations For Future Action” – 10 m
Ms. Rachel Burgess, UNCTAD Consultant
- Presentation by UNECE on how the crisis has impacted MSMEs in relation to market access and trade and ensuing consequences across the region– 10 min
Ms. Hana Daoudi, UNECE

(Moderators: Dr. Pierre Horna, UNCTAD and Ms. Hana Daoudi, UNECE)

10:50-12:45 CET

Round of Questions Addressed to Competition and SME officials

This open session aims to share experiences and best practices as well as showcase the diversity of situations across the region on the main topics of:

- impact of COVID-19 on MSME’s sectors in the region;
- influence of digitalisation on the recovery phase of MSMEs;
- the role of competition policy to address challenges in the post crisis recovery

This session will comprise of 2 panels with 5-8 minute presentation per speaker and then 10-15 minute open floor discussion.

Planned interventions from:

Competition Authorities

- Mr. Tsyganov, Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service
- Mr. Zhumangarin, Kazakhstan Competition Authority
- Mr. Karabaev, Uzbekistan Competition Authority

SME representatives/agencies

- Ms. Tatjana Sterjova Dushkovska, Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum
- Ms. Nozigul Khushvakhtova, ExCentral Asia Partnership on Trade Transport and Logistics
- Mr. Revaz Topuria, Centre for Economic Prosperity, Georgia
- Mr. Bojan Stanić, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia
- Mr. Gevorg Poghosyan, Business Support Office-Armenia
- Mr. Veaceslav Sterbet, Private Sector Trade Support Institution "Exportza", Moldova
- Ms. Aisuluu Mambetkazieva, SME and Trade Expert, Kirghiz Republic

See List of Guiding questions/pointers as **Annex I** below.

(Moderator: Dr Pierre Horna, UNCTAD)

Closing remarks

- Summary of discussions: Dr Pierre Horna, UNCTAD
- Mr. Mika Vepsäläinen, UNECE
- Mr. Alexey Ivanov, BRICS Competition Policy Center

(Moderator: UNCTAD)

12:45-13:00 CET

ANNEX I: List of Guiding Questions

Each speaker shall be given 5-8 minutes to present their answers. Once all speakers have presented, the moderator will open the floor for the Q&A session of the particular question.

Pannel 1

Question 1: How did non-tariff measures (NTMs) implemented by governments to curb the spread of COVID19 affect MSMEs' trade and supply chain activities? What can be done to increase the contribution of NTMs to improving MSMEs' market access and recovery? What role for competition policy?

Question 2: How has COVID19 impacted digital trade? What measures have been put in place to prevent large platforms from taking advantage of the current situation to further expand market shares? Are MSMEs prepared to combat this type of practice?

Pannel 2

Question 3: What strategies could MSMEs in conjunction with competition authorities put in place to ensure a level playing field post crisis? Have regional/bilateral/international cooperation been successful among competition authorities and between competition authorities and relevant governmental bodies/ministries (i.e. MSMEs) during the crisis?

Question 4: What lessons can be drawn from competition authorities and MSME support agencies in dealing with the crisis? How will competition authorities and MSME support agencies adapt their strategies to take into account emerging challenges including the imperative in achieving the SDG agenda?