Rethinking Competition Law Enforcement: Lessons Learnt from the COVID-19 Pandemic

Presentation

UNCTAD
Rethinking competition law enforcement: Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic

Thursday 21 July 2022
10. a.m.- 01. p.m., Room XVII
Challenges faced by competition authorities

✓ Operational challenges (e.g., suspended hearings and filings, difficulties in collecting and accessing information)

✓ Challenges related to mergers (e.g., increased numbers of merger notifications)

✓ Challenges related to anti-competitive practices (e.g., price gouging, increase of complaints in the e-commerce and digital area)

✓ Challenges related to market intervention (e.g., state aid, government support measures)
Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

- In times of crisis, sound competition policy is even more important for rapid and sustainable economic recovery.

- Competition authorities should continue to work together with Governments to advise on the design of economic recovery measures, through competition advocacy.

- Access to digital markets by micro small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) should be facilitated under conditions that guarantee transparency and fairness.
Questions for discussion and future work

✓ What is the role of competition law enforcement cooperation in times of crisis?

✓ Which enforcement and advocacy activities are most critical in order to maintain competitive markets and protect consumer welfare during a crisis?

✓ What measures should competition authorities adopt to prepare for future crises?

✓ What are some policy options to best ensure access to digital markets by MSMEs post-pandemic period?
Thank you

Elizabeth.Gachuiri@unctad.org