Crossroads:
How to Better Address the Interplay Between Competition, Consumer and Data Protection Policies in the Digital Era

Presentation

UNCTAD
INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON

Competition law and policy

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Crossroads: How to better address the interplay between competition, consumer and data protection policies in the digital era

Wednesday, 20 July
3.30-4.45 p.m., Room XVII
1. Features and challenges in digital markets

✓ The business models of digital platforms heavily rely on data
  • Massive levels of data collection, storage, processing and use have conferred considerable market power to a small number of big digital platforms such as GAMAM
  • Consumers provide their personal data in return for free services, not knowing the value of the data nor how to protect their privacy
  • Digital platforms’ data monetizing model raises serious data protection issues directly harming consumers

✓ The current competition regime appears to be inadequate or insufficient in handling this self-reinforcing data-driven market concentration: There is a need for well-designed and proactive regulation (e.g., Digital Markets Act in the European Union)

✓ Data protection and competition objectives are sometimes perceived to be in tension: That points to the importance of striking a delicate balance between competition and data protection
2. Discussion

✓ Exchange recent developments and policy directions in their jurisdictions

✓ Discuss how they view ex-ante regulations such as the DMA

✓ Explore how competition, consumer and data protection policies are better coordinated

✓ Share certain challenges which developing countries are facing and how these can be addressed
Thank you

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