Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

22nd session
Recent developments in merger control standards

Friday, 5 July 2024
10:00 - 12:00, Room XIX
1. Background

- Merger control is of increasing importance in competition policy due to the concentration of market power in some basic sectors such as digital, pharmaceuticals or shipping, among others.

- Competition authorities need to review their merger control standards and adapt them to the new circumstances of the 21st century.

- Different aspects such as notification thresholds, the use of behavioural and structural remedies, the effects of vertical and conglomerate mergers should be reviewed.

- In particular, the characteristics of digital markets require authorities to conduct a more dynamic and proactive analysis of merger transactions in order not to slow down innovation.

- In merger operations of a transnational nature, there is a need for greater cooperation between the authorities of the Member States concerned.
2. Issues to consider for discussion

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

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