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**Turkish Competition Law and Policy Practices Since the Covid-19 Pandemic**

*Presentation by*

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***«Turkish competition law and policy practices since the  
COVID-19 pandemic»***

Ms.Büşra ÖZCAN,  
Assistant Competition Expert

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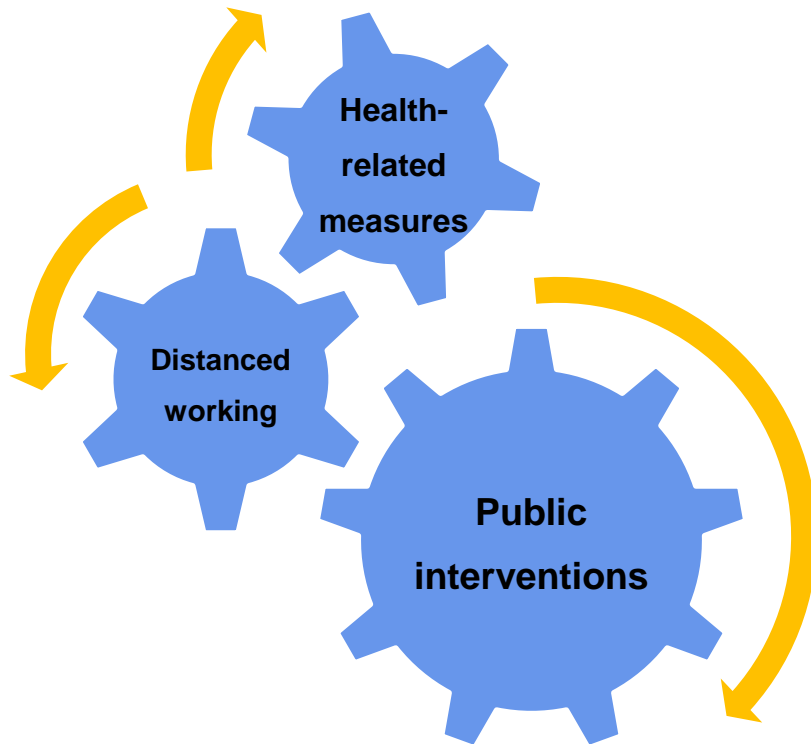
# Turkish competition law and policy practices since the COVID-19 pandemic

## Outline for our presentation

- 1 • Challenges during the pandemic
- 2 • Effects of the pandemic on traditional and digital economies
- 3 • Turkish Competition Authority's actions during the pandemic
- 4 • Closing remarks

# Turkish competition law and policy practices since the COVID-19 pandemic

## Challenges during the pandemic

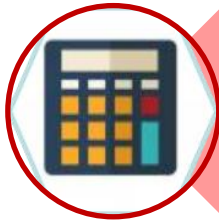


Turkish Competition Authority (TCA) faced the first challenges in early days of March 2020.

- Investigations continued.
- Some sectors (food/agriculture, health services, health related products) have been more focused on than previous.
- Oral hearings postponed and then organised online (due to the travel restrictions).

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## Challenges during the pandemic



Since the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, TCA intensively received consumer complaints on excessive prices in food and agricultural products.



TCA started inquiries about price increases and certain market failures in the supply chain.

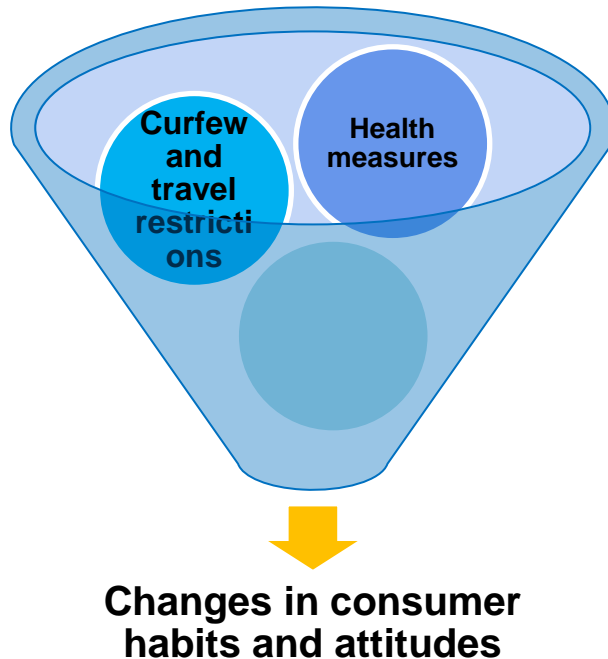


Anticompetitive practices at production level of medical and protective masks have been investigated.



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## Effects of pandemic on traditional and digital economies



COVID-19 has deeply effected many markets (both traditional and digital ones).

During the pandemic, especially consumer side of the many economic relation has profoundly changed general consumer habits.

Online transactions have shown higher growth than it is expected before the pandemic.



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## Effects of pandemic on traditional and digital economies

Some remarks on digital markets, what has been changed in short term?

- During the pandemic, TCA has been monitoring the growth of some digital services
- Considerable growth in number-independent interpersonal electronic communication services as a result of COVID-19 (according to monthly active users number)
- COVID-19, travel bans and isolation requirements have contributed to the growth of online private messaging and other related services (such as Zoom)
- Advertising expenditure has been also impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic



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## Turkish Competition Authority's actions during the pandemic

- TCA's scope of authority covers protection of competition in the markets. In this regard, the Board has a legal power to impose fines following an investigation concerning exploitative prices by means of agreements between competitors or abuse of dominant position according to respectively Article 4 and Article 6 of the Act no 4054.
- Consumer protection and unfair trading practices are overseen by other public authorities.
- TCA collaborates with consumer protection agency (Directorate General of Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance) and Unfair Price Assessment Board for consumer protection on issues raised by the coronavirus, such as price gouging and deceptive pricing.



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## Turkish Competition Authority's actions during the pandemic

The initiated investigations are as follows:

- An investigation has been initiated concerning 29 undertakings including **supermarket chains**.
- An investigation concerning several undertakings engaged in production of **medical and protective masks**
- An investigation process is initiated against 6 undertakings operating in the production of **mask fabric**
- An investigation on **lemon** industry



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## Closing remarks

*We would like to take the questions, if there is any?*



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## Closing remarks

*Many thanks,*

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