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# ARAB COMPETITION FORUM

RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA 23-24 May 2023



Shared Prosperity Digitized Life



الهيئة العامة للمنافسة  
General Authority for Competition



UNCTAD



## Day 2: 24 May 2023

8.30–9 a.m.

Registration

9–10.30 a.m.

*Format: Open session/Hybrid*

### Session III. Cross-border merger control

Cross-border merger control is complex. It often involves jurisdictional, procedural, and substantive issues. These types of mergers raise specific challenges for competition authorities reviewing the transaction in multiple jurisdictions. Most importantly, the countries involved must have effective merger control regimes. The review of cross-border transactions to ensure consistent decisions requires close coordination and cooperation between the competition authorities.

This session will discuss cross-border merger control and provide examples of regional efforts.

**Session coordinator:** ESCWA

**Moderator:** Nathalie Khaled, Coordinator of the competition and consumer protection project, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA

#### Speakers:

- Paul Lugard, Partner at Baker Botts LLP
- Willard Mwemba, Director, and Chief Executive Officer of the COMESA Competition Commission
- Mohamad cheikhrouho, general rapporteur, Competition Council of Tunisia
- Sabine Zigelski, Senior Case Manager, Bundeskartellamt, Germany
- Esteban Greco, Former President, Comisión Nacional de Defensa de la Competencia (CNDC), Argentina, director, GAMES Economics

**Open Discussion**

10.30–11 a.m.

Coffee break



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11 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

*Format: Open session/Hybrid*

## Session IV. Best practices in planning and conducting market studies.

Markets do not always work efficiently and thus negatively impact consumers and society. When this happens, competition authorities may seek to better understand the dynamics of competition in each market or sector, to identify the reasons for poor performance and recommend policy options for dealing with them.

Market studies usually involve an in-depth assessment of market structures or competitive conditions in each sector; and aim to detect inefficiencies arising from weak competition, even if they do not identify behaviour violating competition laws. There are conceptual and procedural differences regarding market studies among competition authorities. This session will examine different approaches in identifying target markets, planning, and conducting market studies.

**Session coordinator:** OECD

**Moderator:** Lynn Robertson, Competition Expert, OECD

### Speakers:

- Antonio Capobianco, Deputy Head of the OECD Competition Division, OECD
- Hesham Fahad Alogeel, Deputy CEO– Economic Affairs, General Authority for Competition, KSA
- Anaid González Hernández, General coordinator of economic analysis in the General Directorate of Economic Studies, of the Federal Economic Competition Commission, Mexico.
- BenKhelifa Jallal, Rapporteur, Competition Council of Algeria
- Ana Sofia Rodrigues, Board Member/Commissioner at the Portuguese Competition Authority

### Open Discussion

12.30–1.30 p.m.

**Lunch break**

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<p>1.30–2.30 p.m.</p> <p><i>Format: Closed Session /Hybrid</i></p>	<p><b>Session V. Roundtable Discussion: Competition developments in the Arab region</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: ESCWA and GAC</b></p> <p>In this session, competition authorities from member States will present national case studies and/or competition developments since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arab Competition Forum, held in May 2022.</p>
<p>2.30–3.30 p.m.</p> <p><i>Format: Open session /Hybrid</i></p>	<p><b>Closing Session. Way forward on enhancing competition in the Arab region.</b></p> <p><b>Session coordinators: ESCWA and partners</b></p> <p>During this session, participants will point out the lessons learned, and main intervention areas needed to advance competition in the Arab region. The session strives to bring about an agreement on concrete recommendations for enhancing competition policies and enforcement in member States. ESCWA and its partners will present their plans moving forward, highlighting the important role of international cooperation in improving competition.</p>