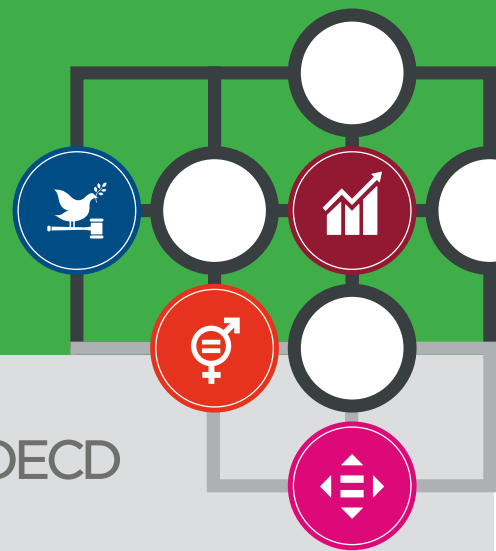


Fourth ARAB COMPETITION FORUM (ACF)

23-24 May 2023
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



الهيئة العامة للمنافسة
General Authority for Competition



E/ESCWA/ACF/2023/Flyer.2

Session II. Abuse of dominance in digital markets

As the number of transactions concluded through digital platforms is ever-growing exponentially, policymakers and competition authorities have initiated regulations and systems to prevent and deter any risk of abuse of dominance by giant digital companies operating in the market. This aims to protect fair competition in digital markets, and consequently, preserve consumers' interests. Consumers, through their smartphones, are purchasing goods and products online, downloading several applications, communicating, reserving online, and searching for any kind of information or specific data. Such activities prove the extent to which digital platforms have a fundamental role in the daily operations of consumers around the world. Given the financial benefit of technological advancement, large digital platforms tend to take advantage of the lack of strict regulations and powerful enforcement by authorities to dominate the digital sphere through different anti-competitive practices such as taking monopolistic actions to prevent fair competition, restrict consumers' freedom and choice, and establish barriers to limit the growth of potential competitors in the digital market.

During session II, a distinguished panel of experts will discuss the unique features of digital markets, the main types of abuse of dominance that may emerge in them, and methods used by competition authorities worldwide to address these challenges. Experts will also share insights on confirmed anti-competitive practices observed among digital firms and explore the best approaches implemented by regulators and authorities to prevent such unfair practices and anti-competitive behaviours.

Note: The duration of the session will be 90 minutes, with each panellist speaking for 10 minutes, followed by a 30-minute Q&A session.



Topics of discussion

- Provide an overview of the main types of abuse of dominance that can emerge in digital markets and their impact on these markets.
- Discuss a case of abuse of dominance in digital markets from an Arab country.
- Highlight the uniqueness of digital markets, and the tools and methods adopted by competition authorities to prevent abuse of dominance practices.
- Discuss the ex-ante regulations in digital markets.

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Speakers



Moderator
Teresa Moreira

Head of the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD



William Kovacic

Professor at George Washington University



Natalie Harsdorf

Acting Director General, Austria Competition Authority



Uğur Bilgehan Burhan

Competition expert in the Supervision and Enforcement Department, Turkish Competition Authority



Saurabh

Joint Director (Economics), Competition Commission of India



Cristina Caffarra

Expert Economist, Keystone Europe, and Visiting Professor UCL London

