

COMPETITION ENFORCEMENT FOR BUSINESS COLLABORATIONS DURING COVID-19

20 August 2020
Thursday
1730 - 1930 Hours
(Indian Standard Time)

The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions have necessitated a rise in collaborations among businesses due to the various demand and supply shocks in the economy. This has led competition authorities worldwide to reconsider competition law enforcement, thus ensuring supply and distribution of essential goods and services. The dominant rationale for this is to protect citizens now and help the economy rebound later.

Previous research after similar catastrophic events has shown that relaxation of competition laws during an economic depression or recession is likely to only further the same. Various inter-governmental agencies and networks have also emphasized that it is imperative to further competition in the market during-and-post-COVID-19, linking competition to productivity growth.

On the contrary, governments and competition authorities have looked into relaxing laws for mergers and acquisitions and granting state aid to companies in need. With uncertainty around the pandemic, there is no clarity about the timespan and thus the proportionality of such measures. Very few competition authorities have set aside a mechanism to reverse such emergency measures.

To further these questions, CUTS International presents a discussion paper, focusing on the different approaches undertaken by competition authorities all around the world in order to strike a balance between the greater public interest and competition in the market. These questions and CUTS findings will be discussed during this webinar.

AGENDA

Time	Session
17:30 - 17:40	Opening Remarks Bipul Chatterjee , Executive Director, CUTS International
17:40 - 17:50	Presentation Sakhi Shah , Research Associate, CUTS International
17:50 - 19:00	Panel Discussion Moderator: Pradeep Mehta , Secretary General, CUTS International Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frederic Jenny, Chair, OECD Competition Committee • Eleanor Fox, Walter J. Derenberg Professor of Trade Regulation at New York University School of Law • William Kovacic, Global Competition Professor of Law and Policy, George Washington University Law School • Teresa Moreira, Head, Competition and Consumer Policy Division, UNCTAD • Taimoon Stewart, Associate Senior Fellow, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies • Shaista Bano, Member, Competition Commission of Pakistan
19:00 - 19:20	Question and Answer Session
19:20 - 19:30	Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks Udai S Mehta , Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International
