

AGENDA

UNDERSTANDING COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY

Webinar 24 November 2021

10:00 am, Beirut Time (EET)

It is a fundamental principle of competition law and policy that firms should compete on the merits and should not benefit from undue advantages for example due to their ownership or nationality.

Government actions can sometimes prevent, restrict or distort competition within a market. They can set procurement/tax rules or regulatory regimes putting private companies at a disadvantage compared to state-controlled or supported firms, or yet, they can assign market regulatory functions to firms that currently or potentially compete on the same markets.

Ensuring a level playing field is therefore key to enable competition to work properly and deliver benefits to consumers and the wider economy. This webinar will explain what competitive neutrality is, why it is important to economic growth and creating attractive business environments while also providing case studies from across the region.

10:00 am – 10:10am Opening

Dr. Mahmoud Mumtaz, Chairman of the Egyptian Competition Authority

10:10 am – 10:40 am Primer on Competitive Neutrality

Prof. Deborah Healy, Professor, University of South Wales, Law and a Director of the Herbert Smith Freehills China International Business and Economic Law Centre

Prof. Arsenio M. Balisacan, Chairman, Philippines Competition Commission

Discussion

10:40 am – 11:40 am Sharing international experiences and best practice

Ms. Teresa Moreira, Rotational Officer in Charge, Division on International Trade and Commodities and Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD

Ms. Nathalie Khaled, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA

Mr. Wouter Meester, Competition Expert, OECD

Ms. Federica Maiorano, Senior Competition Expert

Ms. Alanoud Alfahad, Director of Monopolistic and Anti-Competitive Investigations Department in Kuwait

Mr. Mohammad Almaziad, Economic Specialist, General Authority for Competition in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Discussion

11:40 am – 11:50 am Final reflections and closing

Prof. Frederic Jenny, Chair, OECD Competition Committee

Dr. Mahmoud Mumtaz, Chairman of the Egyptian Competition Authority