

Day 1- 13 December 2022

Session II. Importance of Protecting and Advocating Competition and Competition related Subjects and Matters

In general, the aim of competition regulations is to prevent private businesses from engaging in practices that might decrease competition, harm consumers, lower purchasing power, and waste resources. In this context, competition advocacy is crucial because it influences government agencies to develop policies that are less detrimental to consumer welfare and economic efficiency. Thus, it serves as a tool against lobbying and economic rent seeking behaviors to ensure better accountability and transparency in government economic decisions. It also reinforces competition and ensures a competitive environment through raising awareness and educating citizens, businesses and policy makers which helps support the efforts of competition agencies in tackling anti-competitive behaviors.

During session II, representatives from the Competition Protection Agency (CPA) of Kuwait, and international competition experts will shed light on the role that the CPA is playing in raising awareness and educating the public in relation to competition law, and will discuss the importance of international cooperation in strengthening competition policy, along with the role that the Kuwaiti government agencies are playing to advocate competition protection policies and promoting a culture of competition on a broad national scale.

Note: the duration of this session will be 60 minutes, with each panelist speaking for 10 minutes, followed by a 10-minute Q&A.

Topics of discussion:

- Present Egypt as a successful case study of competition advocacy, illustrating how a competition authority can ensure competitive neutrality in practice.
- Outline COMESA's approach at the regional level, and the use of targeted advocacy as a tool for enforcing competition.
- Describe the ongoing actions of Kuwait's Competition Protection Agency (CPA) to promote competition, including advocacy and raising awareness of competitive neutrality.
- Highlight the measures that can be taken by competition authorities to coordinate with national governments, including tools that can help ensure competitive neutrality.
- Discuss recommendations from UNCTAD regarding competition advocacy, including policies and best practice that empower consumers

Speakers:



Moderator
Fahd Al Otaibi
Director Financial Affairs
CPA, Kuwait



Mahmoud Momtaz
Chairman of the Competition
Protection Authority
Arab Republic of Egypt



Willard Mwemba
Director and CEO of the
Competition Committee,
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Hiba AL Saab
Acting Director of the
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Joaquín López Vallés
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