

Day 2- 14 December 2022

Session V. Digital Economy and Competition

The digital market has rapidly developed since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this has disproportionately benefited large digital corporations who have capitalized on both their market power and the lack of legislation in this space. Such corporations have often made unjustifiable profits at the expense of consumers, excluding competitors such as newly established digital SMEs by adopting anti-competitive practices. Legislators and competition authorities have started to propose new regulations for digital markets, aiming to simultaneously protect consumers and the business environment.

As the digital market in Kuwait and GCC is growing, there is a noticeable absence of legal ratification of the new law in 2020 and its executive regulations provisions in Competition Law to regulate online platforms, but there are several different approaches that Kuwait could take. There are different approaches being considered or adopted in the US, UK, Germany and EU for these new Laws and regulations targeting online platforms, and lessons that can be drawn for the future.

This session will cover the regulatory framework that should be adopted to include provisions in Competition Laws that protect consumers and businesses in the digital economy.

Note: the duration of this session will be 60 minutes, with each panelist speaking for 8 minutes, followed by a 12-minute Q&A.

Topics of discussion:

- Highlight the role of the Kuwaiti Competition Protection Agency (CPA) in the Digital Economy and E-commerce sector, including the challenges of regulating the industry, and the tools used to promote competition and create a fair business climate.
- Describe the emergence of the digital economy and its effects on markets and assess the effectiveness of European legislations in ensuring innovation, competition, data protection and consumer protection.
- Set out the role of the OECD in promoting the regulation of the digital economy, including case studies of successful initiatives.
- UNCTAD will describe its work to promote best practices for competition in the digital sector, including recommendations for member states.

Speakers:



Moderator
Saoud Al Anzi
Legal Researcher
CPA, Kuwait



Ali AL Arbash
Economic Affairs Officer
CPA, Kuwait



Sultan Al Majroub
Economics Consultant, Kuwait



Abdullah AL Bakr
President of the Kuwaiti
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