



Expert Group Meeting

Competition as a mean for private sector development

Agenda

Day 1: Wednesday, November 22

- 8:30-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-9:30 **Opening Session**
- **Moctar Mohamed El-Hacene** (Director EDID, ESCWA)
- 9:30-11:00 **Session 1: Stocktaking of Competition Status in the Arab Region** Session Chair:
Presentations: **Rashid Al Ajmi**
(Competition Authority, Kuwait)
- **Ahmed Kamaly**: Recent development in the status of competition in the Arab region, ESCWA
- Presentations on the status of competition in selected Arab countries:
- Layla Babikir** (Ministry of Trade, Sudan)
- Abdelhafid Bougandoura** (Competition Authority, Algeria)
- Jamil Zayed** (Competition Authority, Jordan)
- Jamal Abu Farha** (Competition Directorate, Ministry of National Economy, Palestine)
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30-13:00 **Session 2: Does Competition bring about more Investment and Growth?** Session Chair:
Presentations: **Ahmed Kamaly**
- International expert:
- Tania Begazo** (World Bank, via video conference)
- Regional expert
- Hanan Morsy** (EBRD)
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch break

- 14:00-15:30 **Session 3: How Can Competition affect Total Factor Productivity and Labor Productivity?** Moderator:
Hanan Morsy
(EBRD)
- Presentations:
- International expert
Jarig Van Sinderen (Erasmus University)
 - Regional expert
Amirah El-Haddad (German Development Institute)
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00-17:00 **Session 4: Group Discussion - What Are the Policies Which Can be Enacted to Make Competition More Conducive for Investment and Productivity Growth?** Moderator:
Khalil Laabidi
(Investment Authority, Tunisia)

Day 2: Thursday, November 23

- 9:00-10:30 **Session 5: Panel on: Should competition policies be sectoral or non-sectoral** Moderator:
Alia Abbas
(Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon)
- Proposed panelists**
- International expert
Rabah Arezki (World Bank)
- Regional expert
Abla Abdel Latif (Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, via video conference)
Ridha Ben Mahmoud (Competition Authority, Tunisia)
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00-13:00 **Session 6: Flip Roles Panel** Moderator:
Jarig Van Sinderen
(Erasmus University)
- Topics:
- What competition authority can do to promote investment?
 - What investment authority can do to promote competition?
- Proposed panelists**
- Haytham Al Wahidi** (Investment Promotion Agency, Palestine)
Rashid Al Ajmi (Competition Authority, Kuwait)
Abdelali Benamour (Competition Authority, Morocco)
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch Break

13:30-15:30 **Session 7: Losers and gainers from competition**

Topics:

- Big firms versus small firms
- Local firms versus multinational firms

Proposed Experts

Presentations by two experts

Annalisa Primi (OECD, via video conference)

Simon Topping (Dentons & Co Oman Branch)

Intervention from the following senior government officials

El-Moctar Gaguih Ebeyite (Ministry of Economy & Finance, Mauritania)

Faris Ben Naser Al Faresi (Investment Authority, Oman)

Numat El Tigani (Ministry of Investment, Sudan)

AlKhaiar DJouada (Investment Authority, Algeria)

Session Chair:

Rabah Arezki

(World Bank)

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-17.30 **Final Session: Roundtable on Policy Recommendations and ESCWA's Role**

- Policy recommendations and priorities of action to make competition geared more toward private sector development
- ESCWA's role to push the agenda forward.

Moderator:

Moctar Mohamed El-Hacene

(ESCWA)

Rabah Arezki

(World Bank)