

Executive Director's Note

We convey a sense of enthusiasm in this fourth Newsletter of the Competition Commission. The number of ongoing investigations is at its highest, some enterprises being investigated have realised that cooperating all along with an investigation is the most effective solution. Similarly, the number of ongoing and imminent hearings before the Commission are also at its highest. Decisions regarding cases will likewise be sustaining the pace and parties to proceedings are availing of opportunity to engage with us to find effective solutions.

We had a first case where divestment was imposed as remedy. This is in respect to the merger situation arising from New Goodwill Investment Company Ltd's potential acquisition of a majority stake in Medine Distillery Company Ltd. Divestment may seem drastic, but it is an effective remedy used worldwide to curtail the substantial lessening of competition resulting from a merger.

Over the last couple of years, we have engaged extensively with regional and international stakeholders. Thus, in respect of our ongoing review law review project, the World Bank has provided their insights and proposals based on international benchmarks for competition policy. The World Bank also participated in the identification of priority sectors of the local economy for assessments of market dynamics so that the Competition Commission may pro-actively address areas showing concern. Our growing partnership with the World Bank was further showcased by the organisation of peer-to-peer knowledge sharing involving several Competition Authorities imparting their experience and practical knowhow to our investigative staff via virtual conferencing. Such capacity building will invariably lead to the embedding of international best practices in our activities for more robust and effective enforcement and advocacy. The Competition Commission had participated in the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement by providing our inputs from a competition perspective.

On the regional level, being party to the COMESA Treaty has the legal effect of making the COMESA Competition Regulations & Rules of 2004, binding upon Mauritius. We have been very active in our collaboration with the COMESA Competition Commission (CCC) on cross-border enforcement activities especially regarding referrals on merger notifications and on requests for clearance on agreements between operators in the common market. We review and complete between 20 to 30 such referrals per year. To further consolidate our cooperation with the COMESA, the Competition Commission has initiated the process for implementing a dedicated legal and procedural framework for cross-border enforcement. We are working closely with COMESA for the appointment of a consultant for this project which is being financed by the COMESA.

Continuous learning to remain abreast of latest developments has been a mainstay for us, as is the case in other complex fields. Thus, although the Covid19 pandemic has halted the physical organisation of conferences and workshops, the Competition Commission has invested in digital conferencing tools and subscribed with specialised digital contents providers such as Concurrences for the continued acquisition of knowledge for our staff. We are thus able to enhance our expertise through the various online publications available and from virtual conferences and workshops being organised and involving enforcers from around the world, and various other stakeholders such high standing lawyers, economists, and international legal firms, and international bodies such as the International Competition Network amongst others.



MR D KOWLESSUR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spotlight

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Contest by

ICN & World Bank

First divestment decision by the Commission

In Mauritius, there is a voluntary notification system, where parties have no obligation to notify the Competition Commission prior to completing a merger or acquisition. Nevertheless, the Competition Commission has the power to investigate merger situations (which includes mergers and acquisitions) even if they have not been notified. If a merger situation is found to substantially lessen competition, the Commission can block the implementation of such mergers or impose remedies, which may include a divestment order. Indeed, divestment is an important tool commonly used around the world, to restore competition which may be lost through a merger situation.

Recently the Commission has ordered its first divestment. This was in context of the proposed acquisition of a majority stake in Medine Distillery Co Ltd (“Medine Distillery”) by New Goodwill Investment Co Ltd (“New Goodwill Investment”). The decision was issued on 5th April 2021, following an investigation made by the Executive Director of the Competition Commission.

During the investigation, the Executive Director had concluded that this acquisition was likely to result in substantial lessening of competition in the upstream market for the supply of extra neutral alcohol, and also in the downstream market for the supply of bottled rum. Given that most of the concerns identified by the Executive Director emanated from the fact that New Goodwill Investment is also a shareholder of Grays Distilling Ltd (“Grays Distilling”), which is the main competitor of Medine Distillery, the Executive Director had recommended that the Commission issues a directive to New Goodwill Investment to sell its shares in Grays Distilling as a condition to become majority shareholder of Medine Distillery. Other recommendations had also been made in this regard.

A hearing before the Commission took place in January 2021, following which, the Commission issued its decision, in which New Goodwill Investment was directed to sell its shares held in Grays Distilling as a condition to acquire a majority stake in Medine Distillery.

To date, New Goodwill Investment owns 33.33% of the shares of Medine Distillery, and intends to increase its shares to 66.66%. With this increase in shareholding, New Goodwill Investment will become the majority shareholder in Medine Distillery and will acquire a controlling interest over the latter.

Two markets are found to be affected by this transaction, in particular, the upstream market for the supply of extra neutral alcohol used as input to produce bottled rum in Mauritius and the downstream market for the supply of bottled rum (local rum, cane spirit and cane liquor) in Mauritius.

New Goodwill Investment already exercises significant control in the distribution of rum as well as in the distribution of extra neutral alcohol, used in the production of rum. New Goodwill Investment holds minority stakes in the two main producers of extra neutral alcohol for the local market, Medine Distillery and Grays Distilling. New Goodwill Investment also controls two of the three main bottled rum suppliers in Mauritius, notably New Goodwill Company Co Ltd and International Distillers Ltd, together accounting for more than 70% of the market share; the other rum supplier being Grays Inc Ltd.

The Commission is of the view that the transaction is likely to result in a substantial lessening of competition due to various competition concerns arising from this potential transaction. In particular, this transaction will reduce competition between Grays Distilling and Medine Distillery, and thus reducing competition in the distribution of extra neutral alcohol in Mauritius. At the same time, it will increase the market power held by New Goodwill Investment. It will also lead to coordination risks that could influence the price upwards. In addition, by exercising this control over the production and distribution of extra neutral alcohol while having significant interests in the production and distribution of rum, there is a strong possibility that New Goodwill Investment could harm its competitors by foreclosing them.

Considering these factors, the Commission directed New Goodwill Investment to divest of all its shares and associated rights in Grays Distilling in the event that the potential transaction materializes.

It is to be noted that New Goodwill Investment has appealed to the Supreme Court against the Commission’s decision.



Advertising for real estates

In March 2018, the Executive Director opened the investigation INV040 – Advertising for Real Estates following an enquiry into a complaint that Mediatiz Ltd was abusing of its market position by incentivizing real estate agents through special offers for listing properties exclusively on its L'Express Property portal. The special offers included: (a) free account upgrades in terms of enhanced visibility of the listings; (b) free access to the use of property listing management software; (c) free listings onto lexxpressclassified.mu; (d) free boosting credits for client listings to appear on top pages; and (e) free monthly subscriptions.

The competition concern from the imputed conduct on the part of Mediatiz Ltd was foreclosure of actual and potential competing property portals. This could harm competition in the market for the provision of online property listing services, to the detriment of property listers and seekers. In fact, the complainant claimed to have exited the market due to delisting of properties from its portal because of the conditional offers from Mediatiz Ltd.

After a thorough investigation into matter, the Executive Director concluded that Mediatiz Ltd was potentially in a monopoly situation by virtue of the number of listings on its L'Express property portal. However, Mediatiz Ltd did not abuse of its market position. Property listers were not coerced to list properties exclusively on L'Express Property. They were free in their choice of property listing portals. Having regard to the findings of the investigation, the Commission concluded in April 2021 that no intervention in the market for online property listing services was required.

Market study of the Airline Industry

The Competition Commission pursued its collaboration within the African Competition Forum ('ACF') by conducting a market study (the 'Study') into the airline industry in Mauritius. This Study was part of the ACF initiative for a cross-country airline study in Africa. The main objective of the ACF project was to understand the competition dynamics in the airline industry across Africa, identify potential competition concerns and come up with priorities to facilitate regional integration within the African continent.

The Study focused mainly on understanding the market structure, alliances, state involvement, regulatory setting, and competition dynamics in Mauritius. With the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, the study was extended in 2020 to assess its on-going impact on the industry for future policy decision.

It was observed that the Mauritian airline industry has significantly evolved over the past decades. It has progressively moved from a regulated and restricted to a more liberalised international air market in terms of both market access and ownership and control.

By end of 2019, Air Mauritius, the national carrier, flew directly to 23 destinations and, in its attempt to boost the tourism sector, the Government has plans to increase the number of routes within our network. Currently, Mauritius has 62 Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) with varying degree of air access. There are about 20 airlines which operate from Mauritius on various regional and international routes.

The Study revealed that Air Mauritius was likely to have over 50% of the overall airline market in terms of passengers transported and routes served. It operated on 13 routes out of the 22 routes (domestic, regional, and international) identified. An analysis of air fares across these routes showed that air fares were higher for shorter distance routes than longer haul. There was evidence of price competition on routes served by several operators compared to those served by single operator.

Investigation into sales and purchase for Fly Ash

In April 2018, the Executive Director of the Competition Commission opened the investigation INV043 – Fly Ash into an exclusive sales and purchase agreement for treated fly ash between Thermal Valorisation Company Limited ('TVCL') and Lafarge (Mauritius) Cement Ltd ('Lafarge').

The local cement market is highly concentrated with only two operators, namely Lafarge and Kolos Cement Ltd ('Kolos') involved at the importation and wholesale distribution levels. Treated fly ash can be used as cement additive and thus represents an important input in the supply of blended cement.

The competition concern was that the exclusive agreement between TVCL and Lafarge could deny Kolos access to the locally produced cement additive. The agreement could thus affect the ability of Kolos to compete on level playing field with Lafarge. In consequence, competition in the local cement market could be weakened.

To address the competition issue identified, TVCL offered undertakings pursuant to section 63 of the Competition Act. TVCL agreed to open up supply of treated fly ash to Kolos on terms and conditions not less favourable to those offered to Lafarge.

In October 2020, the Commission accepted the undertakings of TVCL with a monitoring mechanism in place to ensure that the market conditions remain conducive for competition and there is product innovation.



Investigation into Fixture lists

In June 2019, the Executive Director of the Competition Commission opened the investigation INV049-Fixture list by virtue of the powers conferred upon him under sections 30 and 51 of the Competition Act 2007. The investigation follows an enquiry into the complaint of Value Plus Ltd ('VPL') to the effect that Sport Data Feed Ltd ('SDF') was refusing to sub-licence its claimed exclusive or proprietary rights on the UK fixture lists and football data to VPL.

During the information gathering process, the Executive Director was made aware of a case between VPL and SDF before the Supreme Court of Mauritius. VPL is disputing the exclusive intellectual property right on the UK fixture lists and football data claimed by SDF. In this regard, an interlocutory judgement has been delivered by the Supreme Court in November 2019. The judgement provides for a temporary resolution for VPL to have access to UK fixture lists and football data for offering of the fixed-odd betting.

The judgement of the Supreme Court somehow temporarily addresses the competition issue of refusal to sub-licence UK fixture lists and football data by SDF. VPL can, pending the main case, operate normally in the market. As such, the Executive Director has put the case in abeyance until further notice.

Depending on the outcome of the main case, that is whether or not there exists exclusive intellectual property right on the UK fixture lists and football data, the Executive Director would decide on the course of action in pursuing the investigation.



PRICE REGULATIONS

AN ANALYSIS

“Although they are sometimes used as a tool for social policy, price controls can dampen investment and growth, worsen poverty outcomes, cause countries to incur heavy fiscal burdens, and complicate the effective conduct of monetary policy”.

World Bank Group Report on Global Economic Prospects 2020

Price is central to the functioning of markets and one of the foremost dimensions of market competition. Within neoclassical economics, the free operation of the price formation mechanism is essential to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of competitive markets for the common interest of consumers and producers. The free price formation mechanism leads to an efficient distribution of society's finite resources. Indeed, over the last decades, evidence has shown that there has been a shift towards price liberalisation and market deregulation around the world. However, recently, it appears that there may be an increasing trend in price controls. Indeed, the brutal disruption caused by the Covid-19 crisis has spurred much debate on the introduction of price controls. This raises an important question- *“Is price control the best solution?”*

Is price control the ultimate solution to control increasing prices?

Considered as a form of intervention in the market, price regulations are measures which require products/services to be offered on the market at price which is determined by a pre-set methodology rather than free market forces. They may take, among others, the form of fixed price, fixed rate-of-return or mark-up, or maximum price or mark-up. There is thus a palette of policies of setting prices by government agencies, legal statutes or regulatory authorities.

Price regulations can be viewed as a method to bring prices closer to a “fair” price with the aim to improve consumer welfare, to “stabilise” price level due to high volatility in demand and supply conditions or to achieve other socio-economic goals. However, while there may be legitimate socio-economic goals in regulating prices in certain markets, price regulations may distort the proper functioning of the market mechanism. The variety and quality of goods/services offered may be reduced. The incentive to innovate may also be reduced. Weak enforcement of price regulation can lead to black markets and collusive behaviours among competitors. In brief, it may lead to sub-optimal market outcome.

Like in many other countries, the price of certain products and services are controlled in Mauritius. It has been observed that further price regulations have been introduced recently. For instance, price regulations are being introduced with respect to freight forwarder's services for consolidated cargo and real estate agents' services in carrying out real estate transactions.

Undoubtedly, the intention behind the introduction of such price regulations cannot be other than enhancing the welfare of consumers and the economy at large. Indeed, when price increases there are much public debates proposing to control prices. This can be very appealing as a solution. But is it really effective? And, what are the long terms implications?

“Improving the competitive environment can be a more effective means of lowering costs to consumers and producers than the use of price controls.”

The World Bank Group report on Global Economic Prospects, devotes a chapter entitled *“Price controls: Good Intentions, Bad Outcomes”*; this report and several other studies tend to suggest that price controls have several limitations, and they usually fail to serve the very purpose for which they were initially set. It is highlighted that whilst price regulation is usually used as a measure to create access to products for the poor in emerging and developing countries, they may nevertheless increase poverty. They may also hinder investment and economic growth. One of its direct effects is on the process of competition itself, of which price is a central element. As per the report, improving the competitive environment can be a more effective means of lowering costs to consumers and producers than the use of price controls.

PRICE REGULATIONS AN ANALYSIS

The Competition Commission to launch market study to assess the market impact of price regulations.

Mandated to keep the operation of markets and the conditions of competition in those markets under review, we believe that it is important for the Competition Commission to gauge the potential effects of the price regulations on market operations and the conditions of competition in those markets. In so doing, it would fulfil the objective to assist in designing policies which minimise market distortions for sustainable markets.

Following a preliminary analysis of existing price regulations, we believe that indeed there may be prospects for reforms. Some of these regulations exist since decades. Certain appears to be distortionary and may be causing harm to the market and consumers. Moreover, some price regulations appear to be in markets showing an appreciable degree of market failure and may be justifying such interventions.

As such, and in line with its mandate under the Competition Act 2007, the Competition Commission is launching a market study to assess price regulations in Mauritius. It is expected that by end of the study and following consultations with several stakeholders, we can come up with policy recommendations for future price regulations and also with reforms concerning existing price regulations which may be harmful for the market. International institutions like the World Bank and the OECD have developed several tools as guidance to conduct such studies, and same will be used during our assessment.

Of course, at the end it will be for the Government to ultimately decide on these policies while taking into account a myriad of socio-economic goals. However, through the study, we look forward to contribute in designing policies for a prompt, robust and sustainable economic growth through competitive and efficient markets.



THE PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET IN MAURITIUS

Pharmaceutical products are critical in the treatment of diseases and thus an integral part of healthcare services. It is imperative to ensure the safety and efficacy of products available in both public and private channels of distribution. At the same time, the issue of affordability must be taken into consideration to ensure access to such essential products. It is to be highlighted that around eighty percent of the total of Rs 5 billion estimated current expenditure on pharmaceutical products is met from out-of-pocket by end-users.

Given their importance, it is common that the supply of pharmaceutical products is regulated in terms of entry and pricing. At the same time, these regulations should be conducive to competition among the various operators for ensuring that adequate products are available at competitive prices to the benefit of consumers. In this optic, the Competition Commission undertook the Market Study of the Pharmaceutical Sector in Mauritius to assess and publicise the conditions of competition in the supply of pharmaceutical products in Mauritius.

The study has been completed and the final report published on 08th June 2021. The report highlights the key features of the supply chain. At wholesale level, majority of pharmaceutical products are imported and supplied by some 40 registered wholesale pharmacies. At dispensing level, pharmaceutical products are provided at various public healthcare institutions. The private channel of distribution consists of 354 retail pharmacies and private healthcare institutions across the island.

Main concerns from review of the overarching regulatory framework

- Lack of transparency in the registration process with the potential effects of undermining the certainty and predictability of the registration process and thus, entry of new products.
- Potential situation of perceived conflict of interest given that the Pharmacy Board and its Trade and Therapeutic Committee could comprise of private pharmacists involved in the wholesale pharmacy business.
- The current pricing mechanism may be resulting in high prices of pharmaceutical products. The prices of pharmaceutical products are based on a maximum mark-up system implying that the higher the cost price of medicines, the higher is the quantum of mark-up and consequently price of pharmaceutical products to end-users.
- The current intellectual property regime could be a source of prevention of competition in the supply of pharmaceutical products. As is the case for all other registered trademarks, the consent of the owners is required for importing pharmaceutical products in Mauritius.

Recommendations to address identified concerns

The recommendations are broadly in relation to implementation of industry best practices to promote transparency and good governance; and assessment for alternative pricing mechanism and importation regime to ensure competition and affordability of pharmaceutical products. Amongst the proposals are:

- Guidelines of the Pharmacy Board on the registration process to be made publicly available.
- The composition of the Pharmacy Board and its sub-Committees to be done in such a manner that minimises such perceived and actual conflicts of interest.
- An assessment of the feasibility of introducing the regressive mark-up system to address the pricing issue.
- An assessment of the intellectual property regime for opening up competition in the market for the supply of pharmaceutical products.

The study is part of the Competition Commission's on-going efforts to monitor the current market conditions and key developments in the pharmaceutical sector and advocate for potential regulatory improvements for the benefits of end-users.

MERGERS ACROSS COMESA

MEMBER STATES

The COMESA Competition Commission (“CCC”) is mandated to review mergers having a regional dimension across the COMESA Member States. For that purpose, it seeks the views of affected Member States. Mauritius being a member state of the COMESA, the Competition Commission works in close collaboration with the CCC to review mergers having a regional dimension and which may impact the Mauritian markets. Some recent transactions reviewed by the Competition Commission in collaboration with the CCC are highlighted below.

Proposed merger between Aon Plc and Willis Towers Watson Public Limited company

Aon Plc and Willis Towers Watson Public Limited Company (“WTW”) entered into a business combination agreement whereby Aon Plc will acquire the shares of WTW and thereon the existing shareholders of WTW will be given shares in the combined company. Aon Plc is a global professional services company offering a range of insurance brokerage and consulting services relating to risk, retirement and health solutions. WTW is a global advisory, broking and solutions company offering a range of risk management, insurance brokerage, and healthcare benefit services. Both companies offer their services in Mauritius, in among others the insurance sector and reinsurance broking services. The Competition Commission assessed the potential impact of the transaction in Mauritius and was of the view that it was unlikely to substantially lessen competition in Mauritius. The views of the Competition Commission were communicated to the COMESA Competition Commission, which cleared the transaction.

Joint venture between Ford Motor Company and Mahindra and Mahindra Limited Ford Motor/Mahindra

The proposed transaction concerned the establishment of a joint venture between Ford Motor Company and Mahindra and Mahindra Limited and the transfer of the automotive business (the “Target Business”) of Ford India Private Limited, to the newly formed joint venture entity, Mahindra Ford Automotive Private Limited (the “Target firm”).

Ford India started its operations in 1995 and has manufacturing facilities in 3 districts in India. It manufactures 440,000 vehicles per year and the models produced are namely: “Figo”, “Aspire”, “EcoSport” and “Endeavour”. Ford India exports “Figo”, “Aspire” and “EcoSport” models. Mahindra & Mahindra Limited has been selling its vehicles globally under the “Mahindra” brand. The company also owns SsangYong Motor Company, a Korean automotive manufacturer. Mahindra & Mahindra Limited is represented in Mauritius through Ruben Racing Ltd, which is the official dealership for SsangYong vehicles, namely the SsangYong Musso.

The Competition Commission assessed the transaction with a focus on the supply of multi-purpose vehicles or sports utility vehicles. However, no competition issues were found, and the transaction was approved by the COMESA Competition Commission.

MERGERS ACROSS COMESA

MEMBER STATES

Proposed merger involving Apuleaf II Limited and Louis Dreyfus Company

The transaction concerns the acquisition of indirect joint control of Louis Dreyfus Company B.V by Apuleaf II Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Development Holding Company PJSC (“ADQ”).

Established in Abu Dhabi in 2018, the holding company of Apuleaf II Limited, ADQ, is one of the region’s largest holding companies with direct and indirect investments in key sectors across Abu Dhabi. ADQ portfolio companies generated significant turnover from Mauritius during 2019 from exports of the following products: steel products, dates and alfalfa (forage and livestock feed).

Louis Dreyfus Company B.V is a global merchant and processor of agricultural goods. The company generated significant turnover from Mauritius in the year 2019, namely from exports of agricultural products (oilseeds, rice, cotton, sugar) and freight services supplied in Mauritius. However, they were not close competitors in Mauritius in most markets and their activities did not relate in such a manner that would warrant competition concerns. As such, the Competition Commission did not object to the transaction and it was cleared by the COMESA Competition Commission.

Proposed acquisition of the property and casualty business and medical insurance of Jubilee Holdings Ltd by Allianz Africa Holding GmbH

The proposed transaction entails the acquisition of a majority stake in Jubilee Insurance (Mauritius) Ltd by Allianz Africa Holding GmbH. Allianz Africa Holding GmbH is a wholly owned subsidiary of Allianz SE and a holding company for Allianz SE’s insurance business in the Common Market namely in Kenya, Madagascar and holds an affiliate company in Egypt. Allianz SE is a global insurance company headquartered in Munich, Germany. Allianz SE is the parent company of the Allianz Group, which is a global financial services provider, predominantly in the insurance and asset management business.

Jubilee Insurance (Mauritius) Ltd is a subsidiary Jubilee Holdings Ltd. Jubilee Insurance (Mauritius) Ltd offers a range of short-term insurance products such as asset insurance, liability insurance and medical insurance products. Given that there was no horizontal overlap in the activities of the merging parties in Mauritius, the proposed transaction was not objected to.

OTHER NEWS

Mauritius in the limelight - Competition Advocacy Contest by ICN & World Bank



The [International Competition Network \(ICN\)](#) and the [World Bank Group](#) launched the “2019 – 2020 Competition Advocacy Contest”. This yearly contest aims to highlight the key role competition agencies, sector regulators and other governmental bodies or non-governmental organizations play in promoting competition by showcasing their advocacy success stories. The title for this year was “**Competition as a tool to reap the benefits and mitigate the costs of the new economy: Jobs, industry and data**” and the Competition Commission obtained the ‘Honourable Mention’ award under the theme “**Boosting policy effectiveness through better coordination between enforcement and advocacy**”, along with three other competition agencies, namely the Hong Kong Competition Commission (Winner), the Mexico Federal Economic Competition Commission (Honourable Mention), and the Zambia Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, (Honourable Mention).

Our Annual Report 2019-2020: In a Snapshot

The Competition Commission hereby announces the forthcoming publication of its Annual Report for the financial year 2019-2020, which is marked by a decade of existence of the institution.

In the year under review, which saw the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Competition Commission received 61 complaints and it internally generated another 14 issues. From those, 18 proceeded to enquiries and added to other ongoing ones at the beginning of the year, this brought the tally to 36. 13 enquires were closed as there were no reasonable grounds for any restrictive business practices, while 3 enquiries proceeded to investigation and 1 advice submitted to the Minister; 19 enquiries were still ongoing at the end of the year.

Of the 3 enquires that proceeded to investigations, 1 enquiry generated 3 distinct investigations, hence a total of 5 investigations were initiated during the year. Added to those, the Competition Commission also handled another 9 brought forward from previous year, thus a total of 14 handled during the outgoing year, of which 3 were completed. The Competition Commission also handled 2 market studies and completed 32 reviews of merger transactions occurring in the COMESA states and which may have an impact on Mauritian markets.

To mark its 10th year existence, the Competition Commission revamped its corporate identity with a new corporate logo, revised its mission and vision statements and issued a new tagline. It also organised several advocacy events for the business and legal community, and it aired several radio spots to explain competition to the general public.

Full details of the matters handled, and outreach initiatives organised by the Competition Commission, will be available in its Annual Report, as well as other activities organised, statutory disclosures and the financial performance.



OTHER NEWS

Outreach in covid times

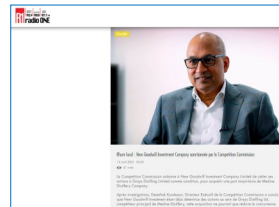
The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our lives in more ways than one. With restrictions on gatherings and social distancing recommendations, organising outreach activities such as traditional face to face workshops and conferences as we know them, has proved challenging for the Competition Commission. This crisis however has turned out to be a major transformation booster, with the use of technology to organise virtual meetings.

Platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams have proven effective means to organise webinars whereby participants, from the comfort of their homes or offices, may attend the outreach activities proposed by the Competition Commission. On 11th September 2020, a webinar on 'Amendments to Competition Commission Guidelines on Mergers' was organised. On 4th November 2020, another webinar on the topic 'Guidance on collaboration between competitors in wake of Covid-19', was organised using Zoom platform. Both sessions registered over 75 participants each, and we were pleasantly surprised by the level of interaction from the audience.

The Competition Commission firmly believes opportunities abound with such virtual meetings and webinars for outreach initiatives as they are convenient and cost effective. Targeted audience may be reached on specific topics in relatively short span of time.

True it is that webinars have their own challenges and may not allow for personal interactions. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic showing no sign of receding, the Competition Commission will continue with its virtual outreach endeavours to educate businesses and various other target groups on competition law matters.

Competition in the news



Collaboration with Le Defi Media Group

We collaborate with le Defi Media by publishing article to promote awareness on competition policy. At the end of May, three articles were published.



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