

WORKSHOP ON COMPETITION LAW AND POLICY

St. George's, Grenada

Monday, September 16, 2019

AGENDA

<p>The objective of the workshop is to introduce competition law to participants. The presentations are geared towards understanding the benefits of competition and the pillars of competition law, competition policy, and the tools used to analyse competition in the context of investigations (i.e., abuse of dominance, restrictive agreements and merger control). The workshop will also highlight the institutional arrangements for competition law enforcement in CARICOM and the OECS. Challenges to regional competition law enforcement will also be highlighted.</p>		
TIMES	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
8:10-8:30	REGISTRATION	
8:30-9:00	OPENING REMARKS	Minister of Trade CCC Chair OECS Secretariat
9:00-9:15	INTRODUCTION TO FTC, CARICOM COMPETITION COMMISSION AND OECS SECRETARIAT Facilitators from FTC and CCC will introduce their agencies, their missions, and how they have designed their institutions to effectively and efficiently conduct competition investigations and promote competition policy.	US FTC, CCC and OECS Commission
9:15-10:00	INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITION POLICY, LAW, AND ECONOMICS This segment explains the benefits of competition in markets and goals of competition enforcement and policy. It briefly covers some of the economics of competition law. Basic competence in antitrust requires a working knowledge of traditional economic concepts of competition, monopoly, and oligopoly. This session will introduce lawyers and non-economists to the basics of antitrust economics. While few or no markets may resemble the textbook perfect competition model, it nonetheless serves as a foundation for competition analysis.	US FTC
10:00-10:15	<i>Question and Answers</i>	
10:15-10:25	COFFEE BREAK	
10:25-10:55	<i>Introduction to Key Concepts in Competition Cases</i> In this session, we will introduce the key concepts and tools used analyse markets in competition cases. We will address: market power, market definition, market shares, barriers to entry, harm to competition, and efficiencies. We will also review some of the economic tools used in the assessment of these concepts, including the SSNIP test.	US FTC
10:55-11:10	<i>Question and Answers</i>	
11:10-12:30	<i>Pillars of Competition Law (Abuse of Dominance, Anticompetitive Agreements and Merger Review)</i> This segment introduces the participants to the three pillars of competition law. Integrated into the presentations will be case examples from the region and interactive discussion questions to expand participant's understanding of key concepts.	US FTC & CCC
12:30-1:30	LUNCH	
1:30-2:45	<i>Pillars of Competition Law (Abuse of Dominance, Anticompetitive Agreements and Merger Review) Cont'd.</i> Facilitators continue discussion of main areas of competition law enforcement. Integrated into the presentations will be case examples from the region and interactive discussion questions to expand participant's understanding of key concepts.	US FTC

2:45-2:55	COFFEE BREAK	
2:55-3:45	<p>OBLIGATIONS OF CARICOM MEMBER STATES AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMPETITION LAW ENFORCEMENT</p> <p>This segment covers the obligations of the CARICOM Member States and the OECS. It briefly looks at the competition provisions in the Revised Treaties of Chaguaramas (RTC) and Basseterre (RTB) and other trade agreements, which the CARICOM Member States are party to, such as the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement. The session will also explain the mandates of the CARICOM Competition Commission under the RTC and national competition authorities in the region. In explaining competition law enforcement, the facilitator will highlight the relationships between the competition authorities and the Courts, and the various sanctions imposed for infringements of national and regional competition law. The session will also focus on the implementation status of the OECS of its commitments under the RTC and RTB and the expanded role of the CCC in this regard.</p>	OECS Commission & CCC
3:45-4:00	<i>Question and Answers</i>	
4:00-4:20	<p>PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF COMPETITION ANALYSIS AND ENFORCEMENT IN CARICOM: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>This session examines some of the practical challenges to competition enforcement in the region and opportunities. Some of the challenges highlighted will be weak competition culture in the region, highly concentrated markets, lack of legislation and institutions in some jurisdictions and lack of data for competition analysis. There are, however, opportunities for the region in the form of enforcement cooperation and research to help spread scarce resources.</p>	CCC
4:20-4:30	CLOSING REMARKS: Next Steps	CCC