

CARICOM COMPETITION COMMISSION 2019 WORK PROGRAMME

| TIME FRAME | OBJECTIVES | ACTIVITIES | EXPECTED OUTCOME |
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| JANUARY – MARCH | | | |
| January | <p>A. In accordance with the Commission’s mandate under Article 173</p> | <p>Online CCC Commission meeting</p> <p>2019 Kickoff meeting Review of last quarter 2018</p> <p>CCC Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Phase 1 – Internal Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Methodology and timeframe 2. Team assignments – Internal and External dimensions 3. Vision and Mission statement 4. GAP/SWOT Analysis 5. SMART Goals 6. First Draft Strategic Plan | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of the CCC’s work in the area of competition law, and consumer protection and welfare. 2. Development of a strategy for handling challenges facing the CCC given scarce resources. |
| | <p>B. Continue to provide support to Member States throughout the year, in the establishment of their Competition Regimes- Article 173.2 (c) and (d).</p> | <p>Deliver technical assistance to competent authorities in the Member States to support the establishment and full functioning of their National Competition Authorities (NCAs) throughout 2019:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Belize i) Guyana – ii) OECS - The Eastern Caribbean Competition Commission (ECCC) iii) Suriname iv) Trinidad and Tobago | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhancement of the competition enforcement process in the CSME. |

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| February | <p>C. In accordance with Article 173.2 (h) to keep the public informed on competition and consumer protection policy.</p> | <p>Advocacy for Competition in Member States</p> <p><i>i) In-country Outreach</i> The CCC will be conducting in-country competition outreach in at least three (3) member states during 2019. The outreach efforts will utilize both Commissioners and Staff to support member states fulfillment of obligations under Chapter 8 of the RTC. One component will be a Regional Lecture Series</p> <p><i>ii) Online Outreach</i> CCC advocacy will also be conducted via online platforms to expand the number of countries that benefit from advocacy efforts.</p> <p>Upgrade of CCC Website Update the format and layout, and functionality</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased awareness by all stakeholder groups about the importance of competition for the proper functioning of CSME markets. 2. Increase in the number of complaints of a cross-border nature brought to the attention of the Commission <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the visibility and accessibility of the CCC |
| | <p>D. In accordance with Article 174.7 to establish its own rules.</p> | <p>CCC Rules of Procedure (ROP) 2011 - Amendments <u>PHASE 1 – Finalise Revised First Draft ROP2011/Start Consultation</u> CCC finalises Amended ROP 2011 incorporating insights from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the CCJ ruling in TCL v. Commission (b) Experience of implementation of ROP 2011 (c) Best practice from other competition authorities (d) Distribute Amended ROP 2011 to key stakeholders (NCAs, Registrars, etc) for written comments | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhancement of the competition enforcement and case management process in the CSME. |
| | <p>E. Co-operation with competent authorities in Member States as required under Article 173.2 (e) and (f)</p> | <p>Meeting of the Re-convened Task Force on Chapter 8 of the RTC Areas for discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the outcome of member states national consultation on Draft CSME Merger Policy; (b) the design and development of CSME Merger provisions for incorporation into Chapter 8 of the RTC (c) Amendments to Chapter 8 of the RTC | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of updated best practice in the areas of merger control 2. Finalize Chapter 8 amendments for COTED approval |

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| March | E. Co-operation with competent authorities in Member States as required under Article 173.2(e) and (f) (cont'd) | <p>Virtual Meetings with OOCUR Secretariat, sector regulators and representatives of Ministries with responsibility for utility regulation</p> <p>To continue work begun in 2018 to create a forum to discuss:</p> <p>(a) Legislative frameworks for utility regulation;</p> <p>(b) Options for improving investigative efficiency in accessing and sharing data on service providers e. g. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the development of competitive markets 2. Promotion of harmonization of competition enforcement in the region to minimize incompatible outcomes in CARICOM Member States. |
| | | <p>Meeting of the CARICOM Competition Network: Online</p> <p>Continue work on mutual areas of concern:</p> <p>(a) Finalisation of methodology and timeline for execution of regional market study –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petroleum Products • Shipping • Pharmaceuticals (Generic Drugs) <p>(b) Harmonization of investigation procedures</p> <p>(c) Administrative and legislative barriers to competition enforcement – development of compendium of differences in national laws by type of anticompetitive business conduct</p> <p>(d) Information exchange – review progress towards development of MOU for information exchange</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promotion of harmonization of competition enforcement in the region to minimize incompatible outcomes in CARICOM Member States. 2. Predictability for businesses with regard to competition enforcement in the CSME. |

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| March | F. In accordance with the Commission's mandate under Article 173 | <p>Training Session for Commissioners and new staff Delivery of training utilizing technical cooperation provided by ICN member in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Competition Law ; (b) Economics of competition (c) Adjudication (d) Mediation <p>Regional Lecture Series In support of advocacy for competition the CCC will partner with NCAs/competent authorities to deliver a lecture series in-country to stakeholders</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhancement of the competition enforcement and case management process in the CSME. 1. Support the development of competitive markets |
| | G. Facilitate the exchange of relevant information and expertise under article 173.2 (g) | <p>Write and publish articles on Competition law and policy and consumer protection for publication</p> <p>Expected areas of focus for 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Financial services (b) Regional air transportation (c) Rules of Procedure (d) CSME Merger Policy <p>Preparation of the Annual Report of the CCC on Competition and Consumer Protection in the CARICOM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Competition and Consumer Protection Developments in CSME • articles or research on topics of interest, etc | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased awareness about the importance of competition for the proper functioning of markets. 2. Increase in the number of complaints being reported to both NCAs and the CCC 3. Raise the profile of the Commission in the region. 4. Improve messaging about competition and consumer protection to stakeholders |

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| APRIL TO JUNE | | | |
| April | H. Conduct research and collect and collate information in respect of matters affecting the interests of consumers -Article 186.1 (h) | <p><u>Financial Services</u></p> <p>Examine competition between non-bank financial firms and banks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Hold discussions with Financial Services regulators (Central Banks, Financial Services Commissions), national and regional banking organisations, national and regional credit union bodies (ii) Examine impact of perceived competition from credit unions and micro-financing institutions on the commercial banking sector in CSME member states (iii) Survey of customers of micro-finance institutions – potential consumer protection | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased awareness about the importance of competition for the proper functioning of markets. 2. Make recommendations on improvements to competition framework |
| | I. Facilitate the exchange of relevant information and expertise in Consumer Protection and Welfare under Article 173.2 (f), (g) and (h) | <p>Regular Sessions of Consumer Officials - Online</p> <p>These meetings will serve to bring together government authorities and NGO to determine key areas for continued action regarding the Strategic Plan for Consumer Protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Developments at national level for consumer protection (b) Trends in consumer protection complaints (c) Dissemination of consumer protection information | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further development of regional capacity and expertise in consumer protection and welfare in the CSME. 2. Strengthen the Consumer NGOs network by providing data and strategies for supporting national consumer advocacy programmes |
| | J. In accordance with Article 174.7 to establish its own rules. | <p>CCC Rules of Procedure (ROP) 2011 - Amendments</p> <p><u>PHASE 2 – Consultation on Revised First Draft ROP 2011</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The CCC compiles report on written responses received by mid-June 2019 to Draft Amended ROP 2011 distributed to NCAs, and Registrars (CCJ, OECS and individual member states) in CSME to comments and feedback (b) Online Meetings convened with NCAs and Registrars (c) Finalise Revised Second Draft ROP 2011 incorporating feedback | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhancement of the competition enforcement and case management process in the CSME. |

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| | <p>K. In accordance with the Commission’s mandate under Article 173</p> | <p>ONLINE CCC Commission meeting Discussion of the status of the 2019 Work Programme Any other business</p> <p>CCC Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Phase 2 – Consultation on First Draft Strategic Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First Draft Strategic Plan distributed to stakeholders 2. Compile Report on comments received from stakeholders 3. Preparation of Second Draft Strategic Plan incorporating feedback | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of the CCC’s work in the area of competition law, and consumer protection and welfare. 2. Development of a strategy for handling challenges facing the CCC given scarce resources. |
| <p>May</p> | <p>L. Conduct research and collect and collate information in respect of matters affecting the interests of consumers - Article 186.1 (h)</p> | <p>Webinars Consumer Research Working Group - Online Aim is to promote consumer protection initiatives under Article 185 in Member States through data driven advocacy. Work to continue on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Establishment of a Regional Complaints Database (b) Knowledge transfer on data collection, storage and analysis, (c) Consumer Assessment of Financial Services in CSME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of a customer survey on financial services provided by commercial banks, credit unions, etc • discussion of fees/charges for financial services • Code of Conduct for Financial services | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of policies to guide/enhance consumer protection and welfare in the CSME. 2. Further development of standard operating procedures for handling consumer complaints. |
| | <p>M. In accordance with Article 173.2 (h) to keep the public informed on competition and consumer protection policy.</p> | <p>Advocacy for Competition in Member States <i>(i) In-country Outreach</i> The CCC will be conducting in-country competition outreach in at least three (3) member states during 2019. In support of advocacy for competition the CCC will partner with NCAs/competent authorities to deliver a Regional Lecture Series lecture series to stakeholders where feasible</p> <p>Upgrade of CCC Website Update available information and accessibility</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased awareness by all stakeholder groups about the importance of competition for the proper functioning of CSME markets. 2. Increase in the number of complaints of a cross-border nature brought to the attention of the Commission <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the visibility and accessibility of the CCC |

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| June | <p>N. Towards building regional capacity and expertise in Competition Law and Consumer Protection under Article 173.2 (g) and (h).</p> | <p>(i) Undertake Assessment of Perceptions of Consumer Protection frameworks in each CSME Member state:</p> <p>(a) Refine research goals and methodology; and</p> <p>(b) Identify ways to execute the survey in member states with support from Research Working Group Members, etc.</p> | <p>1. Development of data driven policies to enhance consumer protection and welfare in the CSME.</p> <p>2. Baseline data to assess impact of the enactment of Consumer Protection law in member states</p> |
| | <p>O. Facilitate the exchange of relevant information and expertise in Consumer Protection and Welfare under Article 173.2 (f), (g) and (h)</p> | <p>(ii) Deliver region wide in-house and online Level 2 Training programme in Competition Policy to key stakeholder groups</p> <p>(a) Developments in Community Competition Policy and law</p> <p>(b) Internal Guide to CCC Administrative Procedures in the Assessment and Investigation of Competition Complaints</p> <p>(c) Economics of Competition and case analysis</p> <p>(d) Enforcement procedures</p> <p>(e) Training on specific areas of interest to each Member State</p> | <p>1. Increased awareness by all stakeholder groups about the importance of competition for the proper functioning of markets.</p> <p>2. Increase in the number of complaints of a cross-border nature brought to the attention of the Commission.</p> |
| | <p>P. Co-operation with competent authorities in Member States as required under Article 173.2(e) and (f) (cont'd)</p> | <p>Meeting of the CARICOM Competition Network: Online</p> <p>Continue work on:</p> <p>(a) Progress report on execution of regional market study -</p> <p>(b) Administrative and legislative barriers to competition enforcement –</p> <p>(c) 2019 LACCF – discussion on paper for submission</p> | <p>1. Promotion of harmonization of competition enforcement in the region to minimize incompatible outcomes in CARICOM Member States.</p> <p>2. Predictability for businesses with regard to competition enforcement in the CSME.</p> |

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| JULY TO SEPTEMBER | | | |
| July | Q. In accordance with Article 174.7 to establish its own rules. | <p>CCC Rules of Procedure (ROP) 2011 - Amendments <u>PHASE 3</u> – Consultation on Revised Second Draft ROP 2011</p> <p>(a) The CCC distributes Revised Second Draft ROP 2011 to wider stakeholder group – bar associations, etc. (b) Collate responses from all key stakeholder groups into a Summary Report for internal review (c) Internal review completed by Staff and Commissioners (d) Preparation of Revised Third Draft ROP 2011</p> | 1. Enhancement of the competition enforcement and case management process in the CSME. |
| | R. Conduct research and collect and collate information in respect of matters affecting the interests of consumers- Article 186.1(h). | <p>Meeting of the Consumer Research Working Group Aim is to promote consumer protection initiatives under Article 185 in Member States through data driven advocacy. Work to continue on:</p> <p>(a) Establishment of a Regional Complaints Database (b) Knowledge transfer on data collection, storage and analysis, (c) Consumer Assessment of Financial Services in CSME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of a customer survey on financial services provided by commercial banks, credit unions, etc • discussion of fees/charges for financial services <p>(d) Code of Conduct for Financial services</p> | 1. Development of data driven policies to guide/enhance consumer protection and welfare in the CSME. |
| | S. In accordance with the Commission’s mandate under Article 173 | <p>CCC Strategic Plan 2020-2025 <u>Phase 3</u> – Consultation on Second Draft Strategic Plan</p> <p>1. Distribute Second Draft to wider Stakeholders group for further comments 2. Prepare Report on Consultation responses for internal assessment 3. Online consultation meeting with stakeholders 4. Revised Third Draft incorporating feedback prepared</p> | 1. Enhance capability of CCC to execute mandate and meet needs of all stakeholders |

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| August | T. Co-operation with competent authorities in the Member States as required under Article 173.2 (e) and (f). | Meetings with the Re-convened Taskforce on Chapter Eight of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (a) CSME Merger Policy (b) CSME Merger provisions (c) Chapter 8 of the RTC – amendments to competition Provisions. | 1. Development of updated best practice in the areas of competition law and policy, CP and welfare. 2. Finalized amendments Presented to COTED on: (a) Chapter 8 of the RTC (b) CSME Merger guidelines. |
| | U. In accordance with the Commission’s mandate under Article 173 | CCC Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Phase 3– Consultation on Third Draft CCC Strategic Plan 1. Distribute Revised Third Draft to Stakeholders 2. Prepare Report on Consultation responses for internal assessment 3. Online consultation meeting with stakeholders 1. Revised Final Draft Strategic Plan incorporating feedback prepared comments | 2. Enhance capability of CCC to execute mandate and meet needs of all stakeholders |
| August | V. In accordance with Article 174.7 to establish its own rules. | CCC Rules of Procedure (ROP) 2011 - Amendments <u>PHASE 4 – Consultation on Revised Third Draft of ROP 2011</u> (a) Distribute final Draft Amended ROP 2011 to all stakeholders (b) Convenes online meeting of stakeholders to discuss final draft (c) Review and finalise the amended ROP 2011 approved by Commissioners (d) Submits Finalised Amended ROP 2011 to Forty-Ninth Meeting of COTED for information | 1. Enhancement of the competition enforcement and case management process in the CSME. |
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| September | W. Towards building regional capacity and expertise in Competition Law and Consumer Protection under Article 173.2 (g) and (h). | Deliver region wide in-house and online Level 2 Training programme in Competition Policy to key stakeholder groups | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased awareness by all stakeholder about the importance of competition for proper functioning of markets. 2. Increase in the number of complaints of a cross-border nature brought to the CCC. 3. Expands cadre of professionals with an interest in and knowledge of competition law |
| | X. In accordance with the Commission's mandate under Article 173 | In-country Commission meeting Discussion of the status of the 2019 Work Programme Finalisation of CCC 2020 work programme and Budget Any other business CCC Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Phase 4 – Finalise/Submit Strategic Plan to COTED <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commissioners Review and provide final comments 2. Finalise Strategic Plan 3. Strategic Plan submitted to Forty-Ninth Meeting of COTED for approval | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of the Commission's work in the area of competition law and policy, and consumer protection and welfare. 2. Further refine strategy for handling challenges facing the Commission's scarce resources. |
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| OCTOBER TO DECEMBER | | | |
| | Y. Co-operation with competent authorities in Member States as required under Article 173.2(e) and (f) (cont'd) | Meeting of the CARICOM Competition Network: Continue work on the market study: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Progress on execution of regional market study - (b) Administrative and legislative barriers to competition enforcement – | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promotion of harmonization of competition enforcement in the region to minimize incompatible outcomes in CARICOM Member States. |

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| | | (c) Review of 2019 LACCF Meeting | 2. Predictability for businesses with regard to competition enforcement in the CSME. |
| | Z. In accordance with Article 173.2 (h) keep the public informed on competition and consumer protection policy. | <p>Advocacy for Competition in Member States</p> <p><i>(j) In-country Outreach</i></p> <p>The CCC will be conducting in-country competition outreach in at least three (3) member states during 2019. The outreach efforts will utilize both Commissioners and Staff to support member states which are not yet in full compliance with their national obligations under Chapter 8 of the RTC.</p> <p>Development of CCC Website</p> <p>Update available information</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased awareness by all stakeholder groups about the importance of competition for the proper functioning of CSME markets. 2. Increase in the number of complaints of a cross-border nature brought to the attention of the Commission |
| | AA. To carry out functions under Article 173.2 (g) | Collaborate with other national/regional competition authorities in the Bahamas, Dominican Republic and European Union as required under the Economic Partnership Agreement. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased cooperation among national, regional and extra-regional authorities. 2. Reduction of jurisdictional hurdles to the enforcement of competition law. |
| | BB. In accordance with the Commission's mandate under Article 173 | <p>Online Commission meeting</p> <p>Discussion of the status of the 2019 Work Programme - 4th quarter</p> <p>Any other business</p> <p>CCC Strategic Plan 2020-2025</p> <p>PHASE 5 – Publicise Strategic Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and incorporate any final comments from COTED into the Strategic Plan 2. Publish the COTED Approved Strategic Plan on website 3. Publicise via media platforms | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of the Commission's work in the area of competition law and policy, and consumer protection and welfare. 2. Development of a strategy for handling challenges facing the CCC given scarce resources. |

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| January - December | <p>CC. To carry out functions under Article 173.2 (g) and (h)A</p> | <p>Participate in international competition fora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Meetings of the Working Groups of the International Competition Network (ICN) – virtual participation (b) Annual meeting of the ICN (c) UNCTAD’s – Inter-Governmental Group of Experts on Competition and Consumer Protection – written submission and virtual attendance where possible (d) Latin American and Caribbean Competition Forum | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge transfer to technical staff of the Commission. 2. Participation in discussion forums that influences policy formulation about best practices. 3. Build relationships with agencies outside of the region which can provide technical assistance and funding. |
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