

# ISTANBUL COMPETITION FORUM



ICF  
WEBINAR

02  
JUNE  
2020  
ISTANBUL

08.00 – 10.00

Washington DC

13.00 – 15.00

Tunis

14.00 – 16.00

Geneva, Paris and Tiran

15.00 – 17.00

Ankara and Moscow

17.00 – 19.00

Tashkent

## ISTANBUL COMPETITION FORUM WEBINAR, with the participation of UNCTAD

Dear Colleagues,

COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our daily routines, our lives and economies of almost all of the nations. To avoid serious health consequences, many governments locked down their populations to an unprecedented degree in history. As the restrictions start to ease, the economic consequences of the pandemic become more evident with shrinking GDPs and skyrocketing unemployment rates. Consequently, governments respond to these challenges by fiscal stimulus programs and monetary policies.

Unsurprisingly, competition law enforcement and competition agencies were not immune to the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. Market failures such as sharp price increases and supply shortage in essential goods and services during the pandemic triggered price gouging. Competition authorities received complaints about such practices as well as exemption requests for some cooperation agreements between rival firms.

Moreover, increased intervention by Governments to support businesses and to prevent further collapse in labor markets and the loss of trust in relying on global supply chain in some countries may provoke more protectionism including more lenient merger control regimes at least in some sectors. Thus, in the near future which will possibly be shaped by more industrial policy discussions, competition authorities should act wisely to balance short and long-term interests.

In this Istanbul Competition Forum Webinar, with the participation of distinguished representatives from international organizations, national competition authorities and academia, the current as well as future challenges faced by competition authorities to protect and promote competition during and after COVID-19 pandemic will be discussed.

The Webinar is open to public and details about how to join the Webinar will be distributed before the Webinar.

I hope this Webinar will help all of the participants as well as Competition Agencies

Kind regards,

**Birol KÜLE**  
President of the Turkish Competition Authority

### Istanbul Competition Forum Webinar

#### Moderator

- Recep GÜNDÜZ (Head of Department, Turkish Competition Authority)

#### Speakers:

- Ebru GÖKÇE DESSEMOND (Legal Officer of UNCTAD),
- Antonio CAPABIANCO (Acting Head of the OECD Competition Committee),
- William KOVACIC (Professor at George Washington University Law School),
- Anatoly GOLOMOLZIN (Deputy Head of FAS Russia)
- Farrukh KARABAYEV (Deputy Head of Antimonopoly Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan)
- Fathia HAMMED (Second President of the Tunisian Competition Authority)
- Katerina MANTZOU (Economist and Head of the Hellenic Competition Authority Covid-19 Task Force),
- Mimoza KODHELAJ (Director of Albanian Competition Authority)

PROGRAMME