

Agenda 15.02

International Workshop on the Global Food Value Chains: Focus on the Global Grain Trade

Venue: Cairo Marriott Hotel, Salon Vert

February 21-22, 2024

The global grain trade is an essential element of the global food value chain, as a growing number of countries rely on the international market in providing food security for their people, and respectively, more farmers are selling their produce on the global market. The established mechanisms facilitating this trade are characterized by a sustained economic concentration and such distortions that put both agricultural producers and final consumers in a precarious position. The geopolitical tensions, and military conflicts, like the COVID-19 pandemic and financial crisis of 2008 beforehand, have once again emphasized the systemic problems in the functioning of this segment of the food value chain and has made even more palpable the pressing need to reinvent global trading mechanisms in the grain sector.

At the same time, the historically dominant group of global traders is also in search of new methods to preserve their unique status in the global food value chain. Joint digital platforms and complex forms of financialization are already serving this purpose. 2023 UNCTAD Trade and Development report underscores the gruesome contrast between profits gained through financial trade in grains and rising food insecurity concerns in the most vulnerable regions of the planet. With this workshop, the BRICS competition authorities and academics advance a discussion as to how a more active and holistic application of competition law principles could help to bring forward a more sustainable and pro-competitive solution for the global grain trade regulation.

Day 1, February 21	
10.00 – 10.30	<u>Welcome Coffee</u>
10.30 – 10.45	<u>Welcome and Introduction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahmoud Momtaz, Chairman, Egyptian Competition Authority • Andrey Tsyganov, Deputy Head of FAS Russia • Alexey Ivanov, Director, BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre

10.45 – 11.45	<p><u>Global Food Value Chains and Competition Law: Book Presentation</u></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Moreira, Head of the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ioannis Lianos, Professor of Global Competition Law and Policy, UCL • Alexey Ivanov, Director, BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre • Dennis Davis, Professor, University of Cape Town (virtual) <i>TBC</i>
11.45 – 12.00	<p><u>Coffee Break</u></p>
12.00 – 13.00	<p><u>Countries` Initiatives in Food Market Competition: An Overview of Current Developments</u></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahmoud Momtaz, Chairman, Egyptian Competition Authority <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardin Ratshisusu, Competition Commission of South Africa • Ujjwal Kumar, Associate Director, CUTS International • Dina Waked, Professor of Law, Sciences Po • Isaac Tausha, Chief Economist, Competition Commission, COMESA • Amadou Ceesay, Executive Secretary, Gambia Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
13.00 – 14.00	<p><u>Lunch</u></p>
14.00 – 15.00	<p><u>Innovative Global Approaches to the Food Market Competition Regulation</u></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ioannis Lianos, Professor of Global Competition Law and Policy, UCL <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Moreira, Head of the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD • Tembinkosi Bonakele, Ex-Commissioner, CCSA • Eleanor M. Fox, Professor Emerita, New York University School of Law (virtual) • Alexey Ivanov, Director, BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre • Simon Roberts, Professor, Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development, University of Johannesburg, Global Practitioner, University of Strathclyde (virtual)

15.00 – 15.30	<u>Q&A Session</u>
18.00 – 20.00	<u>Dinner Reception</u>
Day 2, February 22	
10.00 – 10.30	<u>Welcome Coffee</u>
10.30 – 12.30	<p><u>Meeting of the BRICS Working Group for the Research of Competition Issues in Food Markets (Closed Meeting)</u></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexey Ivanov, Director, BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahmoud Momtaz, President, Egyptian Competition Authority • Andrey Tsyganov, FAS Russia • Hardin Ratshisusu, Competition Commission of South Africa • Mr. Karim Mohamed Toumi, International Trade Law Expert, Commercial Control and Governance Sector - Ministry of Economy, UAE • Carolina Saito da Cost, Head of Unit, CADE • Liu Hanqing, Department of Competition Policy Coordination of the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) • Iman Cheratian, Iranian Competition Authority