

Media Release

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Competition Commission hosts 4th BRICS International Competition Conference

The Commission is pleased to welcome delegates to the 4th BRICS International Competition Conference (BRICS Conference) at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre from 12 to 13 November 2015. The BRICS Conference takes place every two years and all the BRICS member countries rotate in hosting this prestigious event.

The previous conferences, hosted by the Federal Antimonopoly Services of Russia in 2009, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of the People's Republic of China in 2011 and Competition Commission of India in 2013, created a solid platform on which we can deepen our relations in the field of competition regulation.

The conference brings together competition authorities, policy experts and other stakeholders from developing and developed nations to debate issues of common interest among BRICS member countries and also explore these developing countries' perspectives on competition policy and enforcement. Some of the expected guest speakers include Nobel Prize winner, Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Dr Joel Netshitenzhe, Dr Frederic Jenny, Professor Haroon Borat, Professor Massimo Motta, among others.

Members of the South African government, including Minister Ebrahim Patel, eThekweni Executive Mayor, Hon James Nxumalo; KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Mr Senzo Mchunu and MEC of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr Mike Mabuyakhulu, will speak at the conference. Commissioner Tembinkosi Bonakele and Competition Tribunal Chairman, Norman Manoim, will lead the South African competition authorities' delegation.

The theme for this year's BRICS conference is "**Competition and Inclusive Growth**," and seeks to explore the intersection between competition policy and other economic development policy tools with the aim of determining how the relationship between these policy instruments can contribute towards the realization of inclusive growth and shared prosperity.

This is an important issue for BRICS member countries as they are uniquely placed to promote and expand an appreciation of antimonopoly regulation that recognises the specific needs and demands of the developing world. This is primarily because BRICS member countries, and other developing countries, share a similar socio-economic context that is characterized by high levels of unemployment, inequality and poverty.

As a result, the BRICS Conference aims to go beyond the traditional boundaries of competition enforcement, which are generally driven by economic efficiency, and will look at its distributive effects as well.

The BRICS Conference also serves as a platform to further strengthen the economic regulation links between the BRICS member countries.

“We are looking forward to participation by all BRICS member states, and our esteemed delegates. Our desire is to see the BRICS competition authorities operating beyond the biennial conferences and start to have a program where we can share experiences and collaborate to further strengthen our enforcement efforts,” said Commissioner Tembinkosi Bonakele.

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For more information:

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