



competition commission
south africa

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

31 August 2022

SOUTH AFRICAN AND EGYPTIAN COMPETITION AUTHORITIES JOIN FORCES TO STRENGTHEN ANTI-MONOPOLY COMPETITION LAWS

The Competition Commission South Africa this morning, 31 August 2022, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Egyptian Competition Authority to establish a general framework for bilateral communication and cooperation in the fields of competition law and policy as well as enforcement.

Signed on the sidelines of the 16th Annual Competition Law, Economics and Policy Conference currently underway in Sandton, Johannesburg, the MoU forms part of multilateral competition initiatives aimed at strengthening bilateral ties by enhancing technical cooperation and information sharing on respective competition laws and policies.

According to the MoU signed by Commissioner Tembinkosi Bonakele of South Africa and Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed Momtaz, chair of the Egyptian Competition Authority, cooperation may include the following activities in the field of competition law, enforcement, and policy:

- (a) Providing technical assistance to enhance each party's competition policy and enforcement capacity;
- (b) Exchanging information on and discussing major issues of mutual interest such as specialized studies, experiences in competition law enforcement, recent key developments in competition policy and enforcement or enactment;
- (c) Notification and support prior to or after law enforcement against anti-competitive activities, cartelization, mergers, and relevant cases that may have a material effect on the other Party and answer to related questions and share information/data as permitted under law;
- (d) Coordination and cooperation in law enforcement, if necessary, within the limit of reasonably available resources so long as such an effort is compatible with the legislation and crucial interests of the parties;
- (e) Communication on acts, enforcement decrees, enforcement rules, etc. (laws and regulations) in the pipeline of enactment;
- (f) Cooperation to respond to discussions on multilateral economic issues, competition policy, and law enforcement.

The parties may also establish working groups to conduct joint studies on matters of common interest. The two authorities - within the framework of cooperation in the field of competition policy - will aim to ensure:

- Study visits and experts' training, webinars, calls, group calls;
- Participation in conferences, symposia, seminars and other events organized by the parties;
- Organising meetings (visits) of the parties, and senior leadership for discussing the perspectives and directions in which the bilateral cooperation will continue annually;
- Exchange of documents, studies, and publications of the parties.

Also in attendance during the signing ceremony was the Egyptian Ambassador to South Africa Ahmed El Fadly.

Speaking at the signing ceremony Commissioner Bonakele said: "The ECA is one of Africa's longest established and respected competition authorities. We at the Competition Commission of South Africa have followed with great interest the recent efforts of the ECA. In particular, we noted the ECA's focus tackling coordination in the public and private sectors, which is part of the vision of the ECA for 2021–2025".

Commissioner Bonakele said the MoU would deepen the technical cooperation between the two authorities, building upon initiatives such as the Heads of Authority Dialogue on Digital markets.

"Our respective countries face several developmental challenges. These include poverty, inequality, and unemployment, all of which require our respective competition authorities to play a broader role in addressing them. Moreover, as economies increasingly digitise and as economies within Africa move towards greater integration, competition law and enforcement is increasingly cross-border in nature," said Commissioner Bonakele, adding that: "Competition law authorities globally are recognising that increasing co-operation is one of the tools required to ensure more effective competition law enforcement".

[ENDS]

Issued by:

Sipho Ngwema, Head of Communications

On behalf of: The Competition Commission of South Africa

Tel: 012 394 3493 / 081 253 8889

Email: SiphoN@compcom.co.za

[Find us on the following social media platforms:](#)

Twitter: @CompComSA

Instagram: Competition Commission SA

Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube: The Competition Commission South Africa