



ECOWAS REGIONAL COMPETITION AUTHORITY
AUTORITÉ RÉGIONALE DE LA CONCURRENCE DE LA CEDEAO
AUTORIDADE RÉGIONAL DA CONCORRÊNCIA DA CEDEAO

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Bijilo, The Gambia
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INAUGURAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ECOWAS REGIONAL COMPETITION AUTHORITY (ERCA)

THEME

Competition Policy and Market Integration in ECOWAS: Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities

PROGRAMME

Duration: 3 days

08:30 – 09:00: Registration of Participants

09:00 – 10:00: Official Opening Ceremony

- Address by President of the ECOWAS Commission.
- Opening keynote by H.E. Mr. Adama Barrow, The President of the Republic of The Gambia.
- Cultural events / Official Group Photograph.

10:00 – 10:30: Break/ Networking

DAY 1 – Institutional Framework and Regional Cooperation

10:30 – 11:20: High-Level Opening Panel: Competition Policy as a Pillar of Regional Economic Integration: Issues, Perspectives and Opportunities

Moderator: Dr. Juliette Twumasi Anokye, Chairperson ERCA Council.

Panelists (3): Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture, ECOWAS Commission; Mr. Mod K. Ceesay, Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment of The Gambia; Prof. Eleonor Fox, professor emerita at New York University School of Law.

11:20 – 13:00: Plenary Session 1 - Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation in Competition Enforcement

Moderator: Mr. Saïd Kechida, Competition Expert, OECD Competition Division.

Keynote Address (10 mins): Strengthening Cross-Border Enforcement Mechanisms

Speaker: Dr. Simeon Koffi, Executive Director of ERCA.

Panel Discussion: Coordination tools, institutional asymmetries, data sharing

Panelists (4): Dr. Troy Waterman, Executive Director of CARICOM Competition Commission, Dr. Willard Mwemba CEO of CCCC; Mr. Malick Diallo AfCFTA Head of Competition Division; Mr. Sudesh Puran, Head of Investigation of Competition Commission of Mauritius

13:00 – 14:15: Lunch Break

14:30 – 15:30: Plenary Session 2 - Harmonisation of National and Regional Competition Frameworks

Moderator: Mr. Bashiru Njie, Executive Secretary of GCCPC

Keynote Address (10 mins): Harmonisation of Competition Laws in Africa

Speaker: Mr. Tunji Bello, Executive Vice-Chairman, FCCPC

Panel Discussion: Alignment of national frameworks, Challenges of convergence, International best practices

Panelists (5): Mr. Gaye Sowe, Director of Legal Affairs of ECOWAS Commission; Dr. Seydou Sacko, Competition Expert (Fmr. ECOWAS Commission Officer in charge of competition), Prof. Alban Houré, Commissioner of Côte d'Ivoire National Competition Commission; Mr. Melaine Tchokponhoue, Director of Competition – UEMOA, Mrs. Annie L. Nyama Ortiz, Director of Trade and Competition CEMAC.

15:30 – 16:30: Breakout Group Sessions

Group 1: Harmonisation of Legal Frameworks.

- *Chair:* Mr. Adama Diomande - ERCA Council member.
- *Speakers (3):*

Group 2: Governance and Independence of Competition Authorities.

- *Chair:* Prof Festus Okechukwu Ukwueze, Dean Emeritus, Faculty of Law, University of Nigeria.
- *Speakers (3):* Ms. Thembelihle Dlamini, Legal Adviser and Company Secretary at Eswatini Competition Commission, Call for papers (2).

Group 3: Regional Cooperation and Information Exchange.

- *Chair:* Mr. Yahya Samateh, Head of Competition and Economic Research Division, ERCA.
- *Speakers (3):* Call for papers.

Group 4: Strengthening Technical and Operational Capacities.

- *Chair:* Mr. Miguel Semedo, Chairman of Cabo Verde Competition Authority
- *Speakers (3):* Call for papers.

16:30 – 17:15: Report Back from Working Groups

17:15 – 17:30: Summary of Day 1

11:15 – 11:45: Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:00: Plenary Session 5: Competition Enforcement in Strategic Sectors

Moderator: Mr. Appiah Kusi Adomako, West Africa Director, CUTS International.

Keynote Address (10 mins): New Challenges in the Regulation of Strategic Markets.

Speaker: President of ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID).

Panel Discussion: Telecommunications, Energy, Transport, Agribusiness, Health.

Panelists (5): Mr. Charles Ndiaye, Ag. President of ERERA, PURC of Ghana; Mr. Roger Koffi, Head of Dispute Resolution Department, ARTCI; Mr. Dave Anderson, Office Managing Partner- BCLP.

13:00 – 14:30: Lunch

14:30 – 16:00: Sectoral Breakout Sessions

Group 1: Addressing competition challenges in the digital economy and platform-driven markets.

- *Chair:* Dr. Vellah Kedogo Kigwiru, Research Fellow - Hochschule Für Politik, Technical University of Munich School of Governance.
- *Speakers* (3): Call for papers.

Group 2: Strengthening productive integration and cross-border trade through competition policy.

- *Chair:* Mr. Lawrence Bassie, CEO NCPC, Sierra Leone.
- *Speakers* (3): Call for papers.

Group 3: Ensuring effective competition in heavily regulated or concentrated sectors.

- *Chair:* Prof. Namuano Dias, Legal Practitioner, Francis Services SARL, Guinea Bissau
- *Speakers* (3): Mr. Njogou Bah, CEO PURA Gambia, Call for papers (2)

Group 4: Addressing Market Concentration and Barriers to Entry

- *Chair:* Mr. Baboucarr Ceesay, Director of Competition, GCCPC
- *Speakers* (3): Call for papers

16:00 – 17:15: Report Back from Working Groups

17:15 – 17:30: Summary of Day 2



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DAY 3 – Reforms, Compliance, and Effective Implementation of Competition Law

09:00 – 10:00: Plenary Session 6: - Effective Control of Market Power: Merger Review and Abuse of Dominance in Practice

Moderator: Mr. Isiekwena Ikem, Managing Partner - Simon Cooper.

Keynote Address (10 mins): Reforms Required to Strengthen Competition.

Speaker: Prof. Marek Martyniszyn Chair of Competition Law and Policy - Queen's University Belfast, School of Law.

Panel Discussion: Merger control standards and economic assessment; Abuse of dominance: pricing, exclusionary practices, and platform dominance; Remedies and structural vs behavioural interventions; Challenges in proving market power in dynamic markets; Case experiences from different jurisdictions.

Panellists: Mr. Boniface Makongo, Director of Competition COMESA CCC; Ms. Florence Abebe Head, Anti-Competitive Practices Department FCCPC; Ms. Stellah Onyancha Ag. Registrar EACCA; Dr. George K. Lipimile, Fmr. CEO of COMESA Competition Commission.

10:00 – 11:00: Plenary Session 7: Ensuring Compliance and Legal Certainty in Competition Enforcement

Moderator: Ms. Mariana Tavares, Lawyer - Antas da Unha Ecija.

Keynote Address (10 mins): Predictability, transparency, and how firms and advisors navigate competition rules.

Speaker: Mr. Wangombe Kariuki, Senior Consultant – Bowmans.

Panel Discussion: Compliance programmes and corporate governance; Role of legal advisers in preventing anti-competitive conduct; Procedural fairness and rights of defense; Consistency of enforcement decisions; Settlement procedures, leniency, and cooperation tools.

Panelists: Mr. Michael James Curie, Primero; Mr. Emmanuelle REILLE, GIDE LOYRETTE NOUEL, Mr. Gabriel Ambrosio Umabano, Researcher, Research Center in Economic, Financial and Tax Law of the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon (CIDEFF); President of the Gambia Bar Association.

11:00 – 11:20: Coffee Break

11:20 – 12:20: Plenary Session 8: Perspectives on Competition Enforcement: Bridging Regulators, Businesses and Legal Practitioners

Moderator: Ms. Sandya Booluck, Executive Competition, ENS.

Keynote Address (10 mins): A multi-stakeholder dialogue on how competition law is experienced in practice.

Speaker: Mr. Vivien Terrien, Vice-President of Autorité de la Concurrence France.

Panel Discussion: Business perspective: regulatory burden vs predictability, Lawyers' perspective: clarity of rules and enforcement procedures, Regulators' perspective: enforcement challenges and market realities; Building trust between authorities and market participants; Reform priorities to improve effectiveness and cooperation.

Panelists (4): Mr. Ignace Mossou Niamkey, Regional Director Legal & Ethics of Olam group, Mr. Aminou Akadiri, Executive Director of FEWACCI; Carin Smaller, Executive Director Shamba Centre; Dr. Ken Ukoha, President of National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANT).

12:20 – 13:20: Plenary 9: Strengthening Judicial Enforcement of Competition Law for Fair and Competitive markets.

Moderator: Dr. Julius Spencer, Fmr. Minister of Information, Communication, Tourism and Culture of Sierra Leone.

Keynote address (10 mn): How courts interpret and apply competition rules to address anti-competitive practices such as cartels, abuse of dominant positions, and other market distortions that undermine fair trade and consumer welfare.

Speaker: Prof. Dennis Davis, Emeritus Professor at the University of Cape Town,

Fmr President of the Competition Appeal Court, South Africa.

Panel Discussion: Examining how courts understand and apply core competition principles such as cartels, abuse of dominance, and mergers; Addressing the challenges of assessing complex economic and technical evidence in competition cases, Balancing independent adjudication with effective coordination between regulators and the courts.

Panelists: Mr. Nnamdi Dimgba, Justice of the Court of Appeal, Nigeria; ECOWAS Court of Justice; Prof. Frederic Jenny, Emeritus Professor of Economics, ESSEC Business School; Mr. Yves Kenfack, UNCTAD.

13:20 – 13:50: Closing Panel

The Future of Competition Policy and Market Integration in ECOWAS - Priorities for Action

Moderator: Dr. Francisca Kusi-Appiah, Vice-Dean, School of Law, University of Professional Studies, Accra, Ghana.

Introduction (5 mins): Key Messages from the Conference.

Panel (Key lessons from the conference and emerging consensus; Priority reforms for strengthening competition enforcement in ECOWAS; Enhancing cooperation between ERCA, national competition authorities, and sector regulators; Building effective institutions, technical capacity, and compliance cultures; Competition policy as a driver of regional integration, investment, and economic transformation; The ERCA roadmap: immediate, medium-term, and long-term priorities.

Panelists (3): Ms. Teresa Morera, Fmr. Head of UNTACD Competition Division; Prof. Frederic Jenny, Emeritus Professor of Economics, ESSEC Business School; Dr. Simeon KOFFI, Executive Director of ERCA.

13:50 – 14:15: Official Closing Ceremony

- Conference Declaration by the Executive Director of ERCA.
- Address by the Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture.
- Remarks by Mr. Mod K. Ceesay Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration, and Employment.

14:15 – 15:00: Lunch.

15:00 – 17:00: Cultural and Tourist Site Visit

End of Conference

