



# Antitrust and Competition: Novel Issues in a Post-Coronavirus World

Outlook on news and legal developments from around the globe.

## ISSUES

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### **South Africa: Asset transactions during COVID-19 and the role of merger control approval**

September 2020

Antitrust and Competition: Novel Issues in a Post-Coronavirus World

The decision by governments to impose restrictions on businesses to slow the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had a severe impact on the global and South African economy.

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### **State aid rules in pandemic times: Flexing or bending?**

September 2020

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As of 27 August, a staggering amount of EUR1.358 billion in State aid measures to be granted by Member States across the EU to tackle the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak had been approved by the Commission.

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### **COVID-19 & Antitrust: How pharmaceutical manufacturers can lawfully cooperate**

1 May 2020

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On 29 April 2020, the Commission published the full text of the Comfort Letter granted on 8 April 2020 to the pharmaceutical association “Medicines for Europe” that represents a number of pharmaceutical manufacturers throughout Europe.

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### **What COVID-19 could mean for the future of the Big Tech investigations**

24 April 2020

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Rather than hampering the investigations over the long term, the pandemic may open new lines of inquiry for antitrust investigators.

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### **US antitrust enforcers on high alert for collusion in labor markets during COVID-19 pandemic**

21 April 2020

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Antitrust enforcers are closely monitoring employer coordination to disadvantage workers.

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## European Commission relaxes State aid rules to counter economic impact of COVID-19

15 April 2020

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On 19 March 2020, the EU's Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager presented the Commission's "Temporary Framework for State aid measures" to help businesses get access to the liquidity and financial support they require to survive the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 outbreak

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## Antitrust and Competition: Impact of Coronavirus COVID-19

14 April 2020

Antitrust and Competition: Novel Issues in a Post-Coronavirus World

As new national restrictions on free movement of citizens are being imposed every day and a number of other measures are being implemented by governments, the national and EU regulatory landscape is challenging for companies to navigate. In light of the current situation, several competition authorities around the world announced specific points of focus for the coming weeks.

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## EU Antitrust Framework for the coordination of essential coronavirus COVID-19 products and services

10 April 2020

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On 8 April 2020 the Commission published a Temporary Framework for the antitrust assessment of increased business cooperation between competitors in response to coronavirus COVID-19. The aim is to reduce shortages for essential products and services.

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## Cooperation and anticompetitive agreements: a fine line in tough times

7 April 2020

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Much is being written on coronavirus COVID-19 and the measures that governments are taking across the globe, but companies also need increased guidance to walk the fine line between preserving businesses and complying with the Law, specifically competition law.

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## Coronavirus COVID-19 and the extension of the Consortia Block Exemption Regulation

30 March 2020

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The European Commission has decided to prolong the block exemption for liner shipping consortia.

In line with its proposal, the Commission announced on Tuesday 24 March a second extension of Regulation 906/2009, known as the Consortia Block Exemption Regulation (CBER),<sup>1</sup> until 25 April 2024.<sup>2</sup>

We have provided further details and some hints as to how this will play out in the current coronavirus COVID-19 crisis.

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## Coronavirus: US State AGs ramp up efforts to combat price gouging

29 March 2020

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State Attorneys General throughout the country are vigorously enforcing state unfair trade practice and price gouging statutes against those alleged to be taking advantage of consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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### **US Antitrust enforcers issue joint statement on competitor collaboration amid COVID-19 pandemic**

27 March 2020

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The US Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission issued a Joint Antitrust Statement Regarding COVID-19, in which they announced an expedited procedure for evaluating proposed collaborations among competitors and other businesses working to address the pandemic.

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