

Covid–19 coronavirus update: Global application of antitrust rules

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Adverse economic or social conditions have not historically tended to affect the general application and enforcement of antitrust rules. This remains the overall position in the circumstances of Covid-19, with many antitrust authorities expressly stating that they will continue to actively monitor business behaviour and take strict action against infringements. Nevertheless, some authorities have announced that, in certain limited scenarios, they will apply exemptions from, or relaxations of, the rules. The table below sets out an overview, based on our current awareness of the position, of the different approaches being taken by authorities around the world. It will be updated regularly to track the situation as it evolves. Any exemption from the antitrust rules or relaxation in an authority's approach to enforcement is shown in red.

For more information on the potential impact of Covid-19 on the antitrust issues relevant to your business, please speak to your usual A&O antitrust contact.

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
Americas		
United States Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Department of Justice (DOJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The DOJ will hold accountable anyone who violates U.S. antitrust laws in connection with the manufacturing, distribution, or sale of public health products such as face masks, respirators, and diagnostics.– Individuals or companies that fix prices or rig bids for personal health protection equipment such as sterile gloves and face masks could face	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>Justice Department Cautions Business Community Against Violating Antitrust Laws in the Manufacturing, Distribution, and</i>

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	<p>criminal prosecution. Competitors who agree to allocate among themselves consumers of public health products could also be prosecuted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The DOJ's Procurement Collusion Strike Force will also be on high alert for collusive practices in the sale of such products to federal, state, and local agencies. – The FTC and DOJ have put in place an expedited procedure under which they will respond to all Covid-19-related requests, and resolve those addressing public health and safety, within seven calendar days of receiving all necessary information. This will facilitate quicker review and provision of guidance to businesses about the likely legality of their proposed conduct under antitrust laws. – The FTC and DOJ list several types of collaborative activities designed to improve the health and safety response to the pandemic that would likely be consistent with the antitrust laws. They note that they will account for the current demanding circumstances when assessing collaboration, giving the examples of healthcare facilities working together to provide resources/services to communities without immediate access to personal protective equipment, medical supplies, or healthcare, and businesses temporarily combining production, distribution, or service networks to facilitate production and distribution of Covid-19-related supplies. The agencies state that these sorts of joint efforts, limited in duration and necessary to assist patients, consumers, and communities affected by Covid-19 and its aftermath, may be a necessary response. – The DOJ announced that it will not challenge the collaborative efforts of multiple medicinal supplies distributors to expedite and increase manufacturing, sourcing, and distribution of personal protective equipment and coronavirus-treatment-related medication. The efforts are part an emergency response developed and led by the Federal 	<p><i>Sale of Public Health Products</i>, DOJ (09/03/20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Federal Trade Commission and Justice Department Announce Expedited Antitrust Procedure and Guidance for Coronavirus Public Health Efforts</i>, FTC and DOJ (24/03/20) – <i>Joint antitrust statement regarding Covid-19</i>, FTC and DOJ (24/03/20) – <i>Department of Justice Issues Business Review Letter to Medical Supplies Distributors Supporting Project Airbridge Under Expedited Procedure for Covid-19 Pandemic Response</i>, DOJ (04/04/20) – <i>Antitrust review at the FTC: staying the course during uncertain times</i>, FTC blog (06/04/20) – <i>Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission Jointly Issue Statement on COVID-19 and Competition in U.S. Labor Markets</i>, DOJ and FTC (13/04/20) – <i>Response to the AmerisourceBergen Corporation Business Review Request Pursuant to Covid-19 Expedited Procedure</i>, DOJ (20/04/20)

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	<p data-bbox="707 395 1554 453">Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.</p> <ul data-bbox="663 469 1576 1353" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="663 469 1576 596">– The Director of the Bureau of Competition at the FTC Ian Conner has published in a blog post that it is important that antitrust enforcement "must stay the course" and that new exceptions to antitrust laws are not required to deal with the consequences of the crisis. <li data-bbox="663 612 1576 979">– The DOJ and FTC issued a joint statement warning employers that they are monitoring closely employment practices which could breach competition laws in the context of the pandemic. The agencies have highlighted such practices as agreements to suppress or eliminate competition with respect to compensation, benefits, hours worked, and other terms of employment, as well as the hiring, soliciting, recruiting, or retention of workers. The statement also notes that the DOJ's Procurement Collusion Strike Force, an interagency partnership created to combat antitrust crimes and related schemes affecting procurement, grant, and program funding, is on high alert for collusive practices in the sale of Covid-19 related products to federal, state and local agencies. <li data-bbox="663 995 1576 1187">– The DOJ has announced its support for AmerisourceBergen Corporation's collaborative efforts to identify global supply opportunities, ensure product quality and facilitate product distribution of medications and other healthcare supplies. The DOJ approved the company's Business Review Request pursuant to its expedited Covid-19 procedure. <li data-bbox="663 1203 1576 1353">– Speaking via videoconference at the ABA Spring Meeting, FTC Commissioner Rebecca Slaughter has said that the authority should place enforcement (eg, procurement issues and ensuring reliable supply chains) as its highest priority above longer-term projects, such as issuing new vertical merger guidelines. The Commissioner also 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1603 395 2096 453">– Mlex reports on comments by FTC Commissioner Slaughter (28/04/20) <li data-bbox="1603 469 2096 596">– Senators Hawley, Baldwin Ask FTC to Open Antitrust Investigation into Meatpackers Amid Plant Closures, Josh Hawley (29/04/20)

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Brazil Administrative Council for Economic Defense (CADE)	<p>noted that the FTC should be particularly cognisant of conduct such as wage-fixing following anecdotal reports of conduct of this type.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Senators Josh Hawley and Tammy Baldwin have asked the FTC to open an investigation into the meatpacking industry over concerns that the shutdown of three pork plants due to Covid-19 has resulted in a concentrated market leaving the supply chain vulnerable to disruptions. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CADE has opened proceedings into whether healthcare sector companies have been increasing prices and profits in an arbitrary and abusive manner. – Brazil's senate has passed a law, following consultation with CADE representatives and other stakeholders, which includes amendments made to antitrust law to prevent enforcement against below-cost pricing for goods and services until 30 October 2020 (or until the pandemic comes to an end). The bill is still to be approved by the lower house. – CADE has announced that it supports the International Competition Network (ICN)'s recommendations for antitrust authorities to stay vigilant during the crisis and monitor anti-competitive practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release (in Portuguese), CADE (18/03/20), plus PaRR summary – PaRR summary (03/04/20) – Press release (in Portuguese), CADE (16/04/20), plus Mlex summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Bureau remains vigilant against potentially harmful anti-competitive conduct by those who may seek to take advantage of consumers and businesses in the current situation, eg collusion between rivals, including as to what price to charge. It is committed to a "reasonable and principled enforcement of Canada's competition laws". – The Bureau has published a statement recognising that the pandemic may "call for the rapid establishment of business collaborations of limited duration and scope to ensure the supply of products and services" and has stated that where firms are "acting in good faith" to implement such limited measures that it will "generally refrain" from taking enforcement action. The authority has also established a specific task force which will provide guidance and render "rapid" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statement from the Commissioner of Competition regarding enforcement during the Covid-19 coronavirus situation, Bureau (20/03/20) – Competition Bureau statement on competitor collaborations during the COVID-19 pandemic, Bureau (08/04/20) – PaRR report (24/04/20)

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	<p>assessments. The Bureau reiterates that it will take a zero tolerance approach to companies abusing this flexibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Competition Commissioner Matthew Boswell has that the Bureau believes there are even more reasons to scrutinise the digital economy and digital markets in Canada owing to the "dramatic and accelerated movement to digital purchasing" as a result of the pandemic. 	
Chile National Economic Prosecutor (FNE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The FNE issued a press release clarifying that competition law remains in force and that Chile's law did not allow for any derogations even under present circumstances but that, even under the existing law, collaboration between competitors can in some circumstances be lawful in particular if, for example, it leads to efficiencies. The FNE reminded companies that it does not have the power to review or 'authorise' such measures and that it is a matter of self-assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release, FNE (03/04/20), plus PaRR summary
Colombia Colombian Superintendence of Industry and Commerce (SIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – SIC has sent a letter to trade associations warning that competition and consumer rights will be preserved as Covid-19 spreads in the country. – A list of 26 specific products has been published by the Government, the price of which will be monitored and controlled by SIC and its statistics department to ensure vulnerable households have access to essential household and medical supplies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release (in Spanish), SIC (23/03/20), plus PaRR summary – Government statement (in Spanish), SIC (07/04/20), plus PaRR summary
Dominican Republic National Commission for the Defence of Competition (ProCompetencia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ProCompetencia is monitoring business behaviour in the markets for essential goods and services. It has no intention of acting against cooperation or coordination between companies to the extent needed to protect consumers and ensure supply. – But it will not tolerate abusive conditions or collusion, nor the long-term exchange of information that could have an impact on individual business strategies or pricing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release (in Spanish), ProCompetencia (23/03/20), plus PaRR summary
Ecuador Ecuador Competition Authority (SCPM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – SCPM urges manufacturers, suppliers and retailers of respiratory devices and antiseptic products not to take advantage of the pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statement (in Spanish), SCPM (03/20), plus PaRR summary

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El Salvador Competition Superintendency (SC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – SC has published a statement calling on businesses to ensure compliance with the country's antitrust laws during the Covid-19 pandemic. SC stressed that there were no exceptions under the law for anti-competitive agreements even in such circumstances and called for retailers to ensure they set the price of goods individually (including those for which the Government has imposed price caps). The authority noted that it was open to approaches regarding whether or not practices would be subject to enforcement action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statement (in Spanish), SC (23/04/20)
Mexico Federal Economic Competition Commission (COFECE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In an official statement, COFECE has warned companies against profiteering during the Covid-19 crisis and has urged companies not to seek to raise or fix prices based on recommendations from trade associations and business groupings. It also stressed it would investigate sudden price increases and take enforcement action where necessary. – COFECE has sent warnings to the National Chamber of the Sugar and Alcohol Industry and various members. The authority is concerned about increases in the price of pure alcohol, its derivatives and various inputs. COFECE noted that pure alcohol is indispensable in a number of products required to tackle Covid-19 and, for that reason, the authority had been monitoring prices. – COFECE has warned the National Association of Real Estate Developers (ADI Mexico) that members should not coordinate on maximum rental discounts to tenants or exchange confidentially sensitive information. ADI Mexico launched the initiative in response to the Covid-19 crisis but COFECE has encouraged the association to ensure that the implementation does not contravene antitrust law. – President of COFECE Alejandra Palacios has stated that the authority will be more flexible in its application of competition laws in the review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statement (in Spanish), COFECE (27/03/20), plus PaRR summary – Statement (in Spanish), COFECE (30/03/20), plus Mlex summary – Statement (in Spanish), COFECE (31/03/20), plus Mlex summary – Mlex report on a livestream attended by Alejandra Palacios (15/04/20)

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	of temporary, time-limited agreements provided that these are notified to it.	
Peru National Institute for the Defence of Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property (Indecopi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indecopi has issued a press release to say that agreements (such as the sharing of distribution channels or infrastructure) between competitors relating to the supply of essential goods, including pharmaceutical products and food, are permitted within the framework of Peru's existing competition laws. According to a statement, Indecopi has issued requests for information to participants in the fuel market in relation to oil prices, noting a fall in international oil prices due to factors including the Covid-19 pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press release (in Spanish), Indecopi (22/04/20), plus Mlex summary Press release (in Spanish), Indecopi (28/04/20), plus PaRR summary
Europe		
European Union European Commission (EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EC has set up a dedicated webpage with guidance for companies on the application of antitrust rules during the pandemic, including a specific mailbox (COMP-COVID-ANTITRUST@ec.europa.eu) which companies can use to seek informal guidance on specific initiatives. It notes (referring to the ECN joint statement – see below) that there may be a need for companies to cooperate with each other in order to overcome the crisis eg to ensure supply and fair distribution of essential scarce products and services. Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager has said in an online event that the EC will remain "even more vigilant than in normal times if there is a risk of virus-profiteering" and that the Covid-19 outbreak cannot be considered a "shield" against competition law investigations. The EC has published a Temporary Framework Communication to provide antitrust guidance to companies cooperating in response to urgent situations related to Covid-19. The Temporary Framework is meant to provide antitrust guidance to companies willing to temporarily cooperate and coordinate their activities in order to increase production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press release, EC (30/03/20) Mlex report on Vestager's comments at the online event "Friends of Europe, Shaping Europe's digital future: an industry, markets and digital nexus?" (27/03/20) Framework Communication addressing the antitrust issues related to cooperation between competitors in Covid-19 related urgency situations, EC (08/04/20) Press release, EC (08/04/20) Mlex report on Concurrences Quarantine Webinar Series #1' - DG

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	<p>in the most effective way and optimise supply of, in particular, urgently needed hospital medicines. The EC has stressed, that, in most instances the oral guidance it has provided to companies will be sufficient to alleviate concerns but that in exceptional circumstances the EC is willing to provide written comfort. As well as medicines and medical equipment (where the EC considers measures to adapt production, stock management and distribution with exchanges of commercially sensitive information may not be problematic or an enforcement priority, especially if encouraged and/or coordinated by a public authority), it could be relevant to other essential goods and services outside the health sector. The EC also says that if a public authority issues an "imperative request" in response to an emergency then this will avoid antitrust prosecution. The Temporary Framework applies from 8 April 2020 until further notice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – On 8 April 2020, the EC issued the first formal comfort letter under its Temporary Framework to Medicines for Europe, formerly the European Generics Medicines Association, addressing a specific voluntary cooperation project among pharmaceutical producers – both members and non-members of the association – that targets the risk of shortage of critical hospital medicines for the treatment of coronavirus patients. – The EC's head of antitrust policy Maria Jaspers has said that the EC is taking steps to delay taking important investigative steps (such as issuing requests for information, issuing statements of objections or adopting formal decisions) in certain on-going cases recognising the burden on companies during the pandemic. Speaking at the same event, head of pharmaceutical enforcement Rainer Becker announced that two on-going probes in the sector were continuing but that the EC was mindful of the pressures on the sector. – The EC has proposed an exceptional derogation (under Article 222 of the Common Markets Organisation Regulation) from EU competition 	<p>COMP & Coronavirus crisis: Challenges for antitrust (17/04/20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Coronavirus: Commission announces exceptional measures to support the agri-food sector, EC (24/04/20) – PaRR report on remarks by Director -General Olivier Guersent at the ABA Spring Meeting (28/04/20)

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<p>The European Competition Network (ECN) has issued a joint statement on behalf of the EC, EFTA Surveillance Authority, and antitrust authorities of EU Member States and of EEA Member States (ie Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway).</p> <p>When considering any of these authorities, please refer to this statement as well as any additional statement by the individual authority, as set out in this section.</p> <p>Note that the UK is no longer part of the ECN.</p>	<p>rules for the milk, flowers and potatoes sectors. Under the proposals, market participants will be allowed to collectively adopt stabilising measures (eg the collective planning of milk production, and the withdrawal of products from the market in the flower and potatoes sectors). Storage by private operators will also be allowed. Such agreements and decisions would only be valid for a period of maximum six months. Consumer price movements will be monitored closely to avoid adverse effects. The EC is currently consulting Member States on the proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – According to remarks made by Director-General Olivier Guersent, the EC has received a number of requests from participants in the agri-food industry for comfort letters to deal with a drop in demand relating to the pandemic. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The ECN notes that the current situation may trigger the need for companies to cooperate in order to ensure the supply and fair distribution of scarce products to all consumers. It will not actively intervene against necessary and temporary measures put in place in order to avoid a shortage of supply. – Such measures are unlikely to be problematic, since they would either not amount to a restriction of competition under EU/EEA antitrust rules, or would generate efficiencies that would most likely outweigh any such restriction. – If companies have doubts about the compatibility of such cooperation initiatives with EU/EEA antitrust law, they can reach out to the EC, the EFTA Surveillance Authority or the national antitrust authority concerned for informal guidance. – The ECN notes that at the same time it is of utmost importance to ensure that products considered essential to protect the health of consumers in the current situation (eg face masks and sanitising gel) remain available at competitive prices. The ECN will therefore not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Joint statement by the European Competition Network (ECN) on application of competition law during the Corona crisis</i>, ECN (23/03/20)

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	hesitate to take action against companies taking advantage of the current situation by cartelising or abusing their dominant position.	
Albania Albanian Competition Authority (ACA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACA has opened a preliminary investigation into the markets for the retail and wholesale supply of pre-medical products following complaints and reports of price increases during the Covid-19 pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision on opening a preliminary investigation in the market of retail and wholesale of pre-medical products, ACA (18/03/20)
Czech Republic Office for Protection of Competition (CCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCA is continuously monitoring all markets, including those for pharma products and medical equipment. The CCA has issued guidelines for companies considering cooperation in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and said that it is open to receiving applications provided that the cooperation is strictly "necessary". The CCA has stressed that it will not assess merely hypothetical situations but needs concrete details to reach its conclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PaRR report on statement by CCA spokesperson (19/03/20) Press release (in Czech), CCA (09/04/20), plus Mlex summary
Denmark Danish Competition and Consumer Authority (DCCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DCCA won't actively pursue cases of necessary and temporary cooperation between companies if they are doing this to prevent adverse effects on consumers and to maintain security of supply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement (in Danish), DCCA (23/03/20), plus Mlex summary
Finland Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority (FCCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FCCA will take into account the exceptional circumstances caused by Covid-19 when applying the Competition Act. It recognises that companies may need to work together to ensure adequate supply or the equal distribution of products to all consumers. It will not intervene in measures that are necessary to ensure the sufficient availability of products. However, the FCCA will be resolute in intervening in cartels which aim to raise prices. The same will apply to abuse of a dominant position to exclude competitors from the market or to charge manifestly unfair prices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional circumstances caused by the coronavirus to affect the application of the Finnish Competition Act, FCCA (23/03/20)

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France French Competition Authority (FCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – President of the FCA Isabelle de Silva has been reported as saying that the FCA is closely monitoring the prices charged for certain types of goods, in particular on online shopping and delivery platforms. – The FCA has suspended all antitrust enforcement decisions until one month after the end of the nationwide state of emergency. – The FCA closed an investigation into a supplier of healthcare and respiratory systems after it agreed to end exclusive imports of respiratory assistance equipment in French Guiana and the French West Indies and let importers order equipment directly from the parent or any other authorised distributor (even after the crisis). – The FCA confirmed that the terms of a proposed initiative by a professional association representing opticians (Rassemblement des Opticiens de France) whereby it would aid members whose business has been brought to a standstill by the Covid-19 health emergency do not appear to infringe competition law. The approach was outside the framework published by the EC (see above) but the authority confirms that it is prepared to respond to requests for clarification during the emergency. The press release also notes that the FCA has set up a Covid-19 emergency monitoring network, which is particularly concerned with providing informal and pragmatic responses to requests made by companies seeking to ensure their proposed measures are compliant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Coronavirus: L'Autorité de la concurrence surveille les éventuels prix abusifs</i>, Reuters (17/03/20) – <i>Adaptation des délais et procédures de l'Autorité de la concurrence pendant la période d'urgence sanitaire</i>, FCA (27/03/20), plus Mlex summary – <i>Matériel d'assistance respiratoire en Guyane et aux Antilles françaises : clôture de l'enquête sur les importations exclusives</i>, FCA (06/04/20) – <i>L'Autorité éclaire une association professionnelle sur ses possibilités d'action concernant les loyers de ses adhérents dans le cadre de la pandémie actuelle de COVID-19</i>, FCA (22/04/20)

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Germany Federal Cartel Office (FCO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The FCO is open to a dialogue with companies as well as policy makers to let firms cooperate and exchange information. – The Government is in contact with the FCO over the possibility of allowing cooperation in the grocery retail sector. – FCO Chief Andreas Mundt has indicated that the agency has received 20 requests for cooperation relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. In his remarks at an online webinar, Mundt stated that the FCO regularly deals with such requests during normal times and that, where it realises efficiencies, cooperation can be permitted. He also noted that the FCO was not currently planning to issue guidelines on cooperation but that the authority might revise its position in due course depending on how the situation develops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – PaRR report on discussions with FCO President and a spokesperson for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs (20/03/20) – PaRR report on statements by Andreas Mundt at a WuW webinar (29/04/20)
Greece Hellenic Competition Commission (HCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The HCC has issued a statement on the application of competition rules, in particular setting out the rules on vertical agreements, and giving examples of where resale price maintenance (RPM) in the present social and economic conditions may fall within the scope of the EU Vertical Agreements Block Exemption Regulation. It will continue to examine RPM and will penalise firms that engage in anti-competitive practices. – The HCC has sent requests for information to a large number of companies active in the production, import and marketing of healthcare products over reports/complaints of price increases and output restrictions. – The HCC has set up a Covid-19 Competition Taskforce responsible for providing businesses and individuals with information about the application of competition rules and providing updates in relation to investigations carried out by the HCC in crucial business sectors. The Taskforce will also collate questions raised by different institutions and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Application of competition rules, HCC (16/03/20) – Investigation into healthcare materials, HCC (21/03/20) – “Covid-19 Task Force” to fight anticompetitive practices, HCC (31/03/20) – Press release (in Greek), HCC (15/04/20), plus PaRR summary – Dawn raids in the food sector, HCC (22/04/20)

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	<p>businesses concerning the initiatives they intend to take and their compatibility with competition law and provide relevant responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The HCC has launched raids targeted against a number of companies in the grocery sector for suspected collusion. – The HCC has launched raids in the food sector following press reports regarding significant price increases of specific citrus products and/or restrictions of their distribution in Greece. 	
Hungary Hungarian Competition Authority (GVH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The GVH's building is closed, but procedures and deadlines continue to run. The officials are working from home, but remain available via electronic communication channels, including email. Hearing by the authority can take place via videoconference. Witness hearings and hearings where the authority would take a party's statement in relation to an investigation are suspended. Access to the file is possible through the GVH's virtual data room. – The GVH has joined and signalled support for various EU and international initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The GVH published a Hungarian version of the statement of the ECN issued on the application of competition law during the Corona crisis (23/03/20); – The GVH published a Hungarian version of the statement of the International Competition Network's Steering Group Statement: Competition during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic (April 2020); – The GVH also published the EU Commission's Temporary Framework for assessing antitrust issues related to business cooperation in response to situations of urgency stemming from the current COVID-19 outbreak (08/04/2020). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A&O Budapest – Notice on procedure (in Hungarian), GVH – Notice on the ECN statement (in Hungarian), GVH (23/03/20) – Notice on the ICN statement (in Hungarian), GVH (April 2020) – Notice on the EU Commission Temporary Framework (in Hungarian), GVH (08/04/20)

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Iceland Icelandic Competition Authority (ICA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The ICA has granted a number of temporary exemptions from the anti-collusion rules, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Various forms of cooperation in the travel and tourism sectors, including between travel agents and between travel services. – Cooperation between importers and distributors of pharmaceuticals, aimed at securing necessary access to important pharmaceuticals. – Cooperation between financial undertakings within the Icelandic Financial Services Association in order to prepare uniform measures to address liquidity problems and financial distress. – Applications for exemptions concerning Covid-19 will be processed by the ICA in less than 48 hours from receipt. – The ICA invites consumers, undertakings and the public sector to report to it all indications on unreasonable increases in prices. – The ICA has opened a dedicated hotline and established an information centre on its website for queries about how the agency is responding to Covid-19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release (in Icelandic), ICA (04/03/20), plus Global Competition Review summary – Covid-19: Application of competition rules and competition enforcement in crisis, ICA (23/03/20) – ICA Covid-19 information centre
Italy Italian Antitrust Authority (IAA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The IAA has sent a request for information to online platform sellers asking about the pricing of hand sanitiser and protective medical equipment in response to numerous complaints lodged by customers and trade associations. – On 9 April 2020, the Italian Government issued a Decree extending the suspension of all time limits from 15 April 2020 to 15 May 2020. – On 10 April 2020, the IAA announced that the deadlines for the payment of sanctions expiring in the period from 23 February to 15 May 2020 will be extended to 1 October 2020. For both competition and consumer protection sanctions, in relation to which payment by instalment has been granted, the terms of the relevant instalments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Coronavirus, the Authority intervenes in the sale of sanitizing products and masks, IAA (27/02/20) – Art. 37, Law Decree No. 23/2020 and A&O Milan – Notice (in Italian), IAA (10/04/20) – Notice (in Italian), IAA (24/04/20) and A&O Milan

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	<p>falling due in the period from 23 February to 15 May 2020 are suspended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 24 April 2020, the IAA published a notice regarding the compatibility of cooperation agreements relating to Covid-19 with Italy's antitrust laws. It states that it does not intend to intervene in necessary, temporary and proportionate measures taken to avoid shortage of supplies. The IAA refers to possible forms of cooperation between undertakings aimed at encouraging the production and distribution of goods and essential services that may be in short supply during the crisis. In light of the situation, the IAA realises that companies may need reassurances to facilitate their self-assessment of such initiatives. It is prepared to offer necessary guidance to undertakings or trade associations and has set up a dedicated mailbox (accordi-cooperazione-COVID@agcm.it) for that purpose. With a view to providing a higher degree of legal certainty, the IAA, through the Directorate-General for Competition, may (exceptionally and at its sole discretion) issue formal, written comfort letters. Such comfort letters would relate exclusively to the application of Italy's national antitrust law (Law No 287/90). 	
Latvia Competition Council of the Republic of Latvia (LaCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LaCC has warned businesses against using the current situation to apply excessive prices or to commit antitrust infringements, eg agreeing prices between businesses, or between suppliers and traders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorities for consumer rights and competition in Latvia call entrepreneurs to act in good faith during the emergency situation, LaCC (18/03/20)
Lithuania Lithuanian Competition Council (LiCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LiCC has published a letter to the Government warning against price regulation for essential goods and services, highlighting the concern it could increase the problem of shortages and lead to increased exports from companies seeking of higher prices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mlex report on statement by LiCC (26/03/20) Press release (in Lithuanian), LiCC (27/04/20), plus PaRR summary

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The LiCC has warned the Dental Chamber and its members against coordination of prices during the pandemic. The warning is in response to an announcement by the Dental Chamber that dentists may charge consumers for the cost of buying protective equipment. – The LiCC has encouraged food and beverage suppliers to report any pressure they are facing from large food retailers. The LiCC notes the risk that retailers may be abusing their bargaining power vis-à-vis such suppliers in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release (in Lithuanian), LiCC (28/04/20), plus Mlex summary
Luxembourg Luxembourg Competition Council (LuCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The LuCC has said that it will not take enforcement action against companies coordinating as part of national and local schemes to ensure the supply of essential supplies to customers so long as such temporary measures are proportionate and reasonable to meet the objective of security of supply, are in the public interest, contribute to the well-being of consumers, respond to critical requirements imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and last for no longer than is necessary. Companies should assess whether measures meet these criteria themselves but may approach the LuCC for guidance. The LuCC has warned that this does not give companies carte blanche to coordinate outside of those parameters, in particular companies should not exchange confidential future pricing or strategic information, exclude smaller rivals from cooperation and measures should not be designed to achieve a commercial benefit. It has also noted that the crisis should not be used to inflate, for example, the price of face masks or hand sanitiser. The LuCC has also stressed that its guidance does not bind the EC nor does it offer protection against private litigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Document d'orientation à destination des entreprises Impact du Covid-19 sur les actions du Conseil de la concurrence, LuCC (01/04/20)
Moldova Competition Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Competition Council has warned companies against colluding to increase prices or abusing their dominant position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release (in Moldovan) (23/03/20), plus PaRR summary
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The ACM will take into account the Covid-19 crisis in its enforcement approach. For example, supermarkets can inform each other about 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – PaRR report on emailed statement from ACM head (18/03/20)

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM)	<p>their stocks and drug wholesalers can inform each other of the quantities of products they sell. Logistical services providers can cooperate to provide Dutch citizens with vital supplies, while sectors can agree to have a lenient approach towards debtors. The ACM warns firms not to go beyond what is necessary to curtail the crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACM has issued a statement on its oversight during the Covid-19 crisis, remarking that it is "is closely monitoring economic developments, and is ready to answer any questions about collaborations that companies wish to launch in order to combat the crisis" and that several companies have already been in contact. The ACM has announced that health insurers can jointly provide financial support to care providers not directly involved with Covid-19 patients, to ensure care is maintained during and after the crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACM's oversight during the Coronavirus crisis, ACM (18/03/20) Health insurers are allowed to give health care providers financial support collectively during Coronavirus crisis, ACM (21/04/20)
Norway Norwegian Competition Authority (NCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government has granted the transport industry a three-month exemption from antitrust rules to allow them to co-ordinate to ensure they maintain critical services for the population. Any agreements and practices falling within the exemption must as far as possible further the efficient use of resources and the interests of consumers. They must also be notified to the NCA. The NCA has warned that, while it is "reluctant" to do so, it may be forced to apply the Price Policy Act which prohibits unreasonable prices and business terms, and allows the NCA to regulate prices of important goods and services. The Director General Lars Sørsgard has said that "[d]isproportionately large price increases for individual products will not be accepted", citing the example of face masks which are being offered for sale at a significantly higher price than usual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press release (in Norwegian), Norwegian Government (18/03/20), plus PaRR summary Will prevent unreasonable or excessive price hikes, NCA (30/03/20)
Poland Polish Competition Authority (PCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PCA is investigating two wholesalers supplying personal protective equipment to hospitals, including considering whether they breached antitrust rules when terminating their contracts with doctors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCA's proceedings on wholesalers' unfair conduct towards hospitals, PCA (04/03/20)

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – More generally, the PCA has appointed a team that will investigate the rise in the prices of food and hygiene products. Plus prices will be monitored both online and in physical stores. – The PCA is investigating whether major food producers and retail chains are abusing their negotiating advantage vis-à-vis smaller suppliers during the pandemic. Suppliers in the agri-food sector are invited to report any concerns to the PCA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High prices - actions taken by the Office for Competition and Consumer Protection, PCA (23/03/20) – Press release (in Polish), PCA (21/04/20), plus PaRR summary
Portugal Portuguese Competition Authority (AdC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The AdC has warned suppliers, distributors, and resellers from any sector that it remains particularly vigilant in detecting infringements during the outbreak, including price fixing or market sharing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – AdC assures vigilance of anticompetitive practices that exploit current situation, AdC (17/03/20)
Romania Romanian Competition Council (RCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The RCC warns companies not to restrict competition under the pretence of adopting measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and said it is closely monitoring conduct. It will take measures against abusive practices or cartels. – However, in line with the ECN statement (see above), it has noted that Romanian-based companies may cooperate to avoid disruption to the availability of basic products and to secure their balanced distribution during the pandemic. It has said, for example, that retailers may coordinate on transportation services. But companies should make sure their products are available at competitive prices. – The RCC has begun an investigation into potential price fixing by producers of medical and sanitary supplies (in particular, companies who have recently switched to supplying these products). – The RCC has granted regulatory flexibility to the pharmaceutical industry in order to avoid shortages of drugs treating Covid-19 but warns it will not spare profiteering companies which charge abusive prices or seek price-fixing arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release (in Romanian), RCC (16/03/20) plus PaRR summary – Press release (in Romanian), RCC (23/03/20) plus PaRR summary – Agerpress report (in Romanian), (26/03/20), plus PaRR summary – Press release (in Romanian), RCC (04/20), plus PaRR summary

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
Russia Federal Antimonopoly Service of the Russian Federation (FAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FAS has put its inspections on hold until 10 April 2020. Dawn raids will only be conducted to protect the life and health of the Russian population, and in the field of procurement. – FAS work on investigations will be conducted remotely (using video-conferencing) or temporarily postponed – until 10 April 2020 inclusive. – FAS will however take immediate steps to tackle any breaches of antitrust law. FAS regional offices are monitoring prices of socially-important foodstuffs and goods. – The head of FAS Igor Artemiev has called for global cooperation and the exchange of experiences between agencies, in part to ease economic recovery after the crisis. FAS will allow certain types of agreements between competitors if they prevent shortages and lead to consumer benefits that outweigh likely competitive harm. FAS is currently monitoring companies in the air transportation, telecommunications, delivery services, gasoline and construction sectors at both federal and regional level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release, FAS (23/03/20) – Press release, FAS (24/03/20) – GCR report (21/04/20)
Spain National Commission on Markets and Competition (CNMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CNMC has increased its monitoring for potential abuses that could hinder the supply or raise the prices of the products needed to protect public health, such as price gouging or agreements between operators. – CNMC has said that, in certain exceptional circumstances, derogations from competition law could be justified and has set up a dedicated mailbox to receive enquiries or complaints. – After the first week for which the CNMC's complaint procedure was available, CNMC received over 50 complaints and has announced that it has begun preliminary investigations into anti-competitive conduct in relation to the funeral market and the market for the production of hand sanitiser. CNMC is also investigating certain financial institutions in relation to life insurance policies required to be entered into in order to receive loans guaranteed by the Spanish state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release (in Spanish), CNMC (12/03/20) – Press release (in Spanish), CNMC (31/03/20), plus PaRR summary – Press release (in Spanish), CNMC (07/04/20), plus PaRR and Mlex summaries – Press release (in Spanish), CNMC (24/04/20), plus Mlex summary

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
Sweden Swedish Competition Authority (Konkurrensverket)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 24 April, CNMC published the response to its complaints procedure to date. The authority says it has received a total of 300 complaints and requests for advice with half of those relating to the financial sector. The Konkurrensverket has indicated that it is prepared to offer more guidance for companies under these "extraordinary circumstances". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PaRR report on statement by Deputy Director General Karen Lunning (30/03/20)
Switzerland Competition Commission (WEKO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WEKO has reminded companies that it will not tolerate actions by companies seeking to restrict competition as a result of the pandemic and stressed that WEKO will intervene to prevent such practices, noting that unless mandated by the Government or local authorities, private companies must still respect antitrust rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press release (in German), WEKO (26/03/20), plus PaRR summary
Turkey Turkish Competition Authority (TCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCA is monitoring prices in the food sector, where it has noticed unreasonable price increases. It notes that it will fine individuals and companies (including producers, intermediaries, carriers, retailers) engaged in anti-competitive conduct in the food market, especially fresh fruits and vegetables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press release (in Turkish), TCA (24/03/20)
Ukraine Antimonopoly Committee (AMCU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMCU has launched an investigation into retail pharmacy chains and medical suppliers in Kiev and the Kiev region in relation to increased prices for personal protective equipment, including face masks during the pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press release (in Ukrainian), AMCU (31/03/20)
United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CMA has launched a taskforce that will monitor market developments to identify harmful sales and pricing practices, warn firms suspected of exploiting the exceptional circumstances through unjustifiable prices (eg the CMA has issued an "open letter" to pharmaceutical and food and drink industries), take enforcement action if needed, and advise the Government on possible emergency legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMA statement on sales and pricing practices during Coronavirus outbreak, CMA (05/03/20) Supermarkets to join forces to feed the nation, UK Government (19/03/20)

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The UK Government has passed legislation temporarily relaxing competition law in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Grocery-chain suppliers and logistics service providers. Applicable from 1 March 2020, the legislation allows supermarkets to enter into various measures (including sharing data with each other on stock levels, cooperating to keep shops open or share distribution depots and delivery vans, coordinating the range of groceries to be or being supplied by suppliers or retailers and coordination on supplying groceries to consumers in areas of the UK that are particularly vulnerable to shortages of groceries). Logistics service providers may also exchange certain information (including in relation to labour availability and storage space). The exemption applies where the purpose of the agreement is to prevent or mitigate disruption to the supply of groceries to consumers in any part of the UK caused by a reason relating to coronavirus. (ii) Healthcare service providers. Applicable from 1 March 2020, the legislation applies to agreements between the National Health Service Commissioning Board (NHS England) and providers who are not part of the NHS, between other NHS bodies and independent providers or between independent providers. It permits such parties to enter into agreements (including joint purchasing agreements, information sharing in relation to capacity for providing health services of a particular kind, including information regarding staff and facilities sharing or loan of facilities for the provision of health services). The exemption applies where the purposes of the agreement is to assist the NHS in addressing the effects or likely effects of coronavirus on the provision of health services to patients in England. – Subsequent legislation was passed on 20 April 2020 in relation to similar provisions for healthcare service providers in Wales (applicable from 1 March 2020). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Covid-19: CMA approach to essential business cooperation</i>, CMA (19/03/20) – <i>An open letter to pharmaceutical and food and drink industries</i>, CMA (20/03/20) – <i>CMA launches COVID-19 taskforce</i>, CMA (20/03/20) – <i>CMA approach to business cooperation in response to Covid-19</i>, CMA (25/03/20) – <i>Government to suspend competition law to support Isle of Wight ferry routes</i>, UK Government (27/03/20) – <i>FCA and PSR respond to the CMA's guidance on business cooperation under competition law</i>, FCA and PSR (27/03/20) – <i>Explanatory Memorandum: The Competition Act 1998 (Health Services for Patients in England) (Coronavirus) (Public Policy Exclusion) Order 2020</i>, UK Government (27/03/20) – <i>Explanatory Memorandum: The Competition Act 1998 (Groceries) (Coronavirus) (Public Policy Exclusion) Order 2020</i>, UK Government (27/03/20)

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
	<p>(iii) Ferry operators in the Isle of Wight. Applicable from 16 March 2020, the legislation applies to agreements between two or more Solent crossing maritime operators. It permits the parties to coordinate on timetables, routes and the sharing of labour and facilities where the purpose of the agreement is to prevent or mitigate disruption to the provision of Solent crossings caused by a reason relating to coronavirus.</p> <p>Any agreements entered into under the above legislation must be notified to the Secretary of State within 14 days and the exemption will end upon publication of a notice by him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CMA guidance provides detail on the way in which the CMA will apply its discretion to enforce breaches of competition law. It seeks to reassure businesses that it has no intention of taking enforcement action against temporary cooperation between businesses where this is appropriate and necessary in order to avoid a shortage, or ensure security, of supply; is clearly in the public interest; contribute to the benefit or wellbeing of consumers; deals with critical issues that arise as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic; and lasts no longer than is necessary to deal with these critical issues. But it notes it will not tolerate businesses exploiting the crisis as a 'cover' for non-essential collusion, including exchanging information on future pricing or business strategies, where this is not necessary to meet the needs of the current situation. Coordination leading to a reduction in the range of products available is not problematic if it is necessary to avoid shortages of essential supplies. The CMA encourages manufacturers to combat price gouging by setting maximum prices at which retailers can sell their products. The CMA also provides guidance on how it will consider whether exemptions from the competition rules apply and in what circumstances. In a non-exhaustive list, it considers that coordination is unlikely to be a problem (if restricted to what is reasonably necessary) to: avoid a shortage, or ensure security, of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Explanatory Memorandum: The Competition Act 1998 (Solent Maritime Crossings) (Coronavirus) (Public Policy Exclusion) Order, UK Government (27/03/20) – Mlex report by statement from CMA official (31/03/20) – Report a business behaving unfairly during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, CMA (04/04/20) – Dairy industry to join together to manage milk supply, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (17/04/20) – Explanatory Memorandum: The Competition Act 1998 (Health Services for Patients in Wales) (Coronavirus) (Public Policy Exclusion Order), UK Government (20/04/20) – CMA publishes update on COVID-19 Taskforce, CMA (24/04/20), plus Mlex report – @PSPReform tweet (29/04/20)

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	<p>supply; ensure a fair distribution of scarce products, continue essential services; or provide new services eg food delivery to vulnerable consumers. Businesses can ask the CMA for additional, informal guidance on a case-by-case basis where there is genuine uncertainty about the legality of proposed actions and the matter is of critical importance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The CMA warns businesses that any reassurance it gives cannot protect against private damages actions. – Two of the financial services sectoral regulators, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and Payment Systems Regulator (PSR), issued a statement supporting the CMA's guidance, noting "[i]t is important that competition law does not impede firms from working together to provide essential services to consumers in the current coronavirus situation". – The CMA is "urgently engaging" online platforms to find out what they are doing to combat profiteering by third-party sellers. – The CMA has launched a dedicated online service for consumers and other businesses to report whether they consider a business has behaved "unfairly" during the Covid-19 pandemic. – The UK Government has announced that it will lay legislation to temporarily relax competition law to support the dairy industry, by allowing dairy farmers and producers to collaborate to avoid waste and maintain productive capacity to meet future demand, possibly to include sharing labour and facilities, cooperating to temporarily reduce production or identifying where there is hidden capacity in the supply chain for processing milk into other dairy products. – The CMA has published an update on the work of its Covid-19 Taskforce, which has received almost 21,000 complaints about Covid-19-related issues. The CMA has written to 187 firms to seek more information, or expressing concerns, about large price rises for 	

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	<p>personal hygiene products such as hand sanitiser and food products. It has also written to 26 trade associations. It has engaged with digital platforms to help ensure listings charging unjustifiable prices for essential goods are removed quickly. The Taskforce is continuing to collect evidence about unjustifiable price rises further up the supply chain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A CMA spokesperson has reportedly said that the CMA has told the Government that existing competition and consumer laws were not designed to tackle price gouging and that it would be able to better tackle this if it had emergency legislation to give it extra time-limited powers (it is not clear whether these would be enhanced antitrust or consumer protection powers, or both). – According to a tweet by Private School Policy Reform (PSPR), the CMA has written to independent schools warning that they must act independently when determining the level of refunds/discounts on school fees in light of the current situation. The letter posted by PSPR states that agreeing prices or exchanging commercially sensitive information with competitors where this is not necessary to meet the needs of the current situation will almost certainly breach competition law. 	
Asia Pacific		
Australia Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – While not advocating for exemptions to the competition laws, the ACCC has advised legal practitioners that it expects to see an increase in urgent interim authorisation applications to allow firms to coordinate some conduct during the crisis, and that these applications will be an important priority for the regulator. While the ACCC has preparations in place to act on these "extremely expeditiously as necessary", it has urged parties to engage with it as early as possible in the process. It will assess urgent interim authorisation applications on a case-by-case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Australian Banking Association small business relief package, ACCC (20/03/20) – Mlex report on a statement by ACCC spokesperson (18/03/20)

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	<p>basis, taking into account the present situation as well as the longer term impact on competition of any change in the structure of markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The ACC has to date granted interim authorisations in relation to the Covid-19 crisis to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Australian Banking Association (ABA) and banks to coordinate to implement a small business relief package (20/03/20). The ACCC also granted a second interim authorisation for the ABA and banks to co-operate to provide supplementary relief packages for individuals and businesses affected by Covid-19. Specifically, the ACCC has approved a business relief package whereby the banks agree to defer principal and interest payments for loans by commercial property landlords (up to AUD10m), as long as they do not terminate the leases or evict the tenants. Banks have also been granted interim authorisation to coordinate to ensure customers can access services, including, where possible, some counter services (30/03/20). (ii) Supermarkets, to allow them to coordinate with each other when working with manufacturers, suppliers, and transport and logistics providers. It applies to certain specified supermarkets as well as any other grocery retailer wishing to participate. It does not allow supermarkets to agree on retail prices for products (24/03/20). (ii) The Medical Technology Association of Australia to allow its members and other groups – such as suppliers or distributors of medical equipment – to share information between each other, coordinate orders and supply requests, prioritise requests, and jointly tender to supply Covid-19 medical equipment (25/03/20). (iii) Regional Express (Rex) allowing it to coordinate flight schedules with Virgin Australia and Qantas Airways on ten important regional flight routes. The companies will also be able to share revenues from the operation of the flights however the interim authorisation is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Supermarkets to work together to ensure grocery supply, ACCC (24/03/20) – A&O Sydney – Cooperation to aid supply of Covid-19 medical equipment, ACCC (25/03/20) – ACCC authorises Regional Express to coordinate with other airlines, ACCC (26/03/20) – ACCC response to Covid-19 pandemic, ACCC (27/03/20) – Banks authorised to co-operate on loan relief and services, ACCC (30/03/20) – Competition will be key to driving economic recovery, speech by ACCC chair Rob Sims (30/03/20) – Medicine wholesalers to co-operate on access to pharmaceutical products, ACCC (31/03/20) – NBN Co, telcos to coordinate on demand surge and consumer support package, ACCC (01/04/20) – Insurers to offer deferred payments, refunds under small business relief package, ACCC (02/04/20)

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
	<p>conditional on prices remaining no higher than those in place on 1 February 2020 (26/03/20).</p> <p>(iv) Wholesalers of medicines to cooperate to facilitate distribution of essential medication and pharmacy products following an application by the National Pharmaceutical Services Association (31/03/20).</p> <p>(v) NBN Co and five retail service providers to keep Australia's telecommunications networks operating effectively. At the request of the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, the telcos have formed a special working group to share information, coordinate strategies to manage congestion and take other steps to address significant demand changes. The ACCC will be an observer on the group (01/04/20).</p> <p>(vi) Insurance companies and brokers (Suncorp, Allianz, and QBE Insurance, as well as any other insurers or insurance brokers who choose to take part, as long as they notify the ACCC) who have been granted an interim authorisation to work together to implement Covid-19 relief measures for certain small businesses. The package includes a range of measures, including that existing eligible business customers suffering hardship as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic are able to defer their insurance premium payments for up to six months (02/04/20).</p> <p>(vii) Shopping centre owners and managers to discuss and implement rent relief measures for small to medium shopping centre tenants (03/04/20).</p> <p>(viii) Medicines Australia, the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association and their members to work together to support the continued supply of essential medicines during the Covid-19 pandemic. The ACCC's authorisation is targeted to allowing the manufacturers to identify and mitigate any shortages or supply chain problems that could impact the availability of medicines in Australia (03/04/20).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Shopping centres to co-operate to support retail tenants</i>, ACCC (03/04/20) – <i>Medicine manufacturers to coordinate on COVID-19 response</i>, ACCC (03/04/20) – <i>Co-operation to support reliable energy sector authorised</i>, ACCC (03/04/20) – <i>Oil companies allowed to co-operate to secure fuel supply during COVID-19 pandemic</i>, ACCC (03/04/20) – <i>Private and public hospitals to cooperate on COVID-19 in Victoria and Queensland</i>, ACCC (07/04/20) – <i>Co-operation on funding to aid smaller lenders during COVID-19</i>, ACCC (08/04/20) – <i>Private health insurers to cooperate on COVID-19 coverage and deferral of premiums</i>, ACCC (08/04/20) – <i>Co-ordination on life insurance for frontline workers during pandemic</i>, ACCC (14/04/20) – <i>Private and public hospitals in NT and SA authorised to cooperate on COVID-19 response</i>, ACCC (17/04/20)

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
	<p>(ix) The gas and electricity sector, authorising participants to undertake measures, including those deemed necessary to minimise the risk of outages, and share resources if necessary to maintain and operate energy infrastructure and coordinate repairs and maintenance (03/04/20).</p> <p>(x) Major oil refiners and the Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) to discuss and put in place measures so fuel supplies remain available during the Covid-19 pandemic, and after the economic shutdown ends (03/04/20).</p> <p>(xi) Private hospitals in Victoria and Queensland to work together; for example by discussing expected demand for services and available resources, sharing and jointly procuring equipment, medicines and other resources, allocating patients between hospitals, or sharing staff (07/04/20).</p> <p>(xii) Members of the Australian Securitisation Forum to work together to assist smaller lenders to maintain liquidity and issue loans to consumers and small businesses during the economic disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and administer the federal government's AUD15bn Structured Finance Support Fund (08/04/20).</p> <p>(xiii) Private health insurers to co-ordinate on providing financial relief to policy holders during the Covid-19 pandemic, and broadening insurance coverage to include Covid-19 treatment, tele-health and medical treatment provided at home (08/04/20).</p> <p>(xiv) Life insurers to co-ordinate to ensure frontline healthcare workers are not excluded from coverage due to potential or actual exposure to Covid-19. The interim authorisation means that the Financial Services Council and its members cannot use exposure to Covid-19 as a reason to decline life insurance coverage to a frontline health worker, or to charge higher premiums or apply risk exclusions to any new policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expanded co-operation for energy sector during pandemic, ACCC (20/04/20) – Retailers granted authorisation to collectively negotiate with landlords, ACCC (22/04/20) – 7-Eleven and franchisees authorised to co-operate on store opening times, ACCC (24/04/20) – Mining companies allowed to co-operate during COVID-19 pandemic, ACCC (24/04/20) – WA private and public hospitals able to co-operate on COVID-19 response, ACCC (29/04/20)

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
	<p>(xv) Private and public hospitals in Northern Territory and South Australia in separate interim authorisations. Similar to the interim authorisation granted to hospitals in Queensland in Victoria (see (xi) above), the ACCC will allow operators in each jurisdiction to work with each other and relevant health agencies during the current health crisis by, for example, discussing expected capacity and demand for services, jointly procuring and distributing medical equipment and supplies, and sharing staff.</p> <p>(xvi) Gas and energy market participants to co-operate on certain measures intended to maintain secure and reliable energy supplies while the pandemic continues. This approval is for a broader range of conduct than was allowed under an earlier authorisation (see (ix) above), namely allowing market participants to share information about the operation of critical facilities and any risks to their continued operation. The ACCC has expressly excluded any conduct relating to gas availability from this new interim authorisation because at this stage it is not persuaded about the need for coordinated conduct regarding gas.</p> <p>(xvii) Retailers to collectively bargain with landlords in relation to rent relief during the Covid-19 pandemic. The interim authorisation will also allow retailers to share information relevant to the negotiations including in relation to requests by landlords for certain information as part of considering and negotiating support to be provided in the context of Covid-19.</p> <p>(xviii) 7-Eleven and its franchises to discuss potential temporary store closures or reduced trading hours in light of reduced customer demand because of Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>(xix) Members of the Minerals Council of Australia and other mining associations to work together to manage critical services and supplies. The authorisation only applies to activities relating to these critical</p>	

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
	<p>services and supplies. It will, for example, allow companies to share inventories and manage demand for these critical services and supplies, coordinate deliveries, and share details of potential suppliers of personal protective equipment needed to work in underground mines.</p> <p>(xx) Western Australia's Department of Health, private hospitals and public health agencies to work with each other and relevant health agencies during the current health crisis by, for example, discussing expected capacity and demand for services, jointly procuring and distributing medical equipment and supplies, and sharing staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The ACCC has clarified that its 2020 Compliance and Enforcement Priorities remain in place but that it intends to "re-focus" on those priorities with direct relevance to Covid-19, including enforcing against any behaviour which seeks to exploit the crisis with a particular focus on 'price gouging' for essential products and "affordability issues" in sectors such as energy, communications and petrol. The ACCC has set up dedicated Covid-19 Taskforce which is communicating with businesses directly to inform them of their obligations. Further, it has communicated a desire to process potential authorisations "very quickly" and invited companies considering co-operation to contact it directly. – In a speech, ACCC chair Rob Sims commented that in times of crisis, and where there is "a sense of national purpose, co-ordination is both efficient and carries little or no downside," but stressed the importance of these measures not causing "long-term structural damage to competition, market concentration or long-term arrangements that make it more difficult for businesses to enter and compete into the future". 	

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
China State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAMR has released several notices on Covid-19-protection related products and has taken enforcement action, including against stockpiling, forcing up prices and colluding on price increases. SAMR has said in a statement that it will suspend certain antitrust rules under China's Anti-Monopoly Law to support efforts to fight the Covid-19 epidemic and to resume industrial production. For example, there will be exemptions in relation to technical developments and the development of unified standards in the healthcare sectors regarding the manufacture or development of medicines, medical devices, protective equipment and vaccines as well as schemes implement for disaster relief. SAMR indicated that any applicant for an exemption (or any complainant) would be contacted within two days of submitting a request. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAMR website A&O Beijing/Shanghai/A&O Lang Yue (FTZ) Joint Operation Office (23/03/20) Press release (in Chinese), SAMR (05/04/20) plus Mlex summary (06/04/20)
Fiji Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FCCC is actively investigating eight cases of suspected price gouging reported by consumers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press report, Fijian Broadcasting Corporation (20/03/20)
French Polynesia Polynesian Competition Authority (FPCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FPCA has stressed that Polynesian competition law includes provisions allowing it to adapt to exceptional circumstances. To cope with the current crisis, mechanisms derogating from competition law allow Polynesian companies, medium or small, to cooperate in order to guarantee supplies or produce essential products or services (such as masks and disinfectant). Such agreements could be recognised as valid by the public authorities and the FPCA. However, the FPCA will not tolerate behaviour in breach of the competition rules by players tempted to take advantage of the situation, eg in the form of price hikes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press release (in French), FPCA (24/03/20), plus Mlex summary
Hong Kong (SAR), China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HKCC notes that so far it has not received requests to consider the economic impact caused by Covid-19 as a mitigating factor in its 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mlex report on emailed statement from HKCC (19/03/20)

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
Hong Kong Competition Commission (HKCC)	<p>cases. Its investigation and enforcement work are progressing well in general, but it will keep an eye on the situation and the approaches adopted by other jurisdictions in response to the outbreak.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HKCC has issued a statement commenting that it will take a "pragmatic approach" to the enforcement of competition law "in respect of temporary measures which are genuinely necessitated by the COVID-19 outbreak". In the same statement it reiterated that it will remain vigilant against companies seeking to "take advantage" of the situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A&O Hong Kong (23/03/20) Press release (27/03/20), HKCC
India Indian Competition Commission (CCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCI appears to be acting internally as normal and is continuing to work on enforcement files, albeit with reduced working hours. However, depending on developments, a future "slow-down" cannot be excluded. The CCI has so far not taken specific action against enterprises in the Covid-19 context. However, in the past it has demonstrated an active interest in the healthcare sector. Local counsel suggests firms or their associations could consider approaching the Central Government where they feel that measures in their sector/class should be exempted from the application of competition rules or the Central Government should issue directions on policy. The CCI has issued an advisory statement recognising the need for businesses to coordinate with regard to certain activities, including sharing data on stock levels, sharing of distribution channels and infrastructure and sharing production and transport facilities to ensure continued supply of products (such as medical and healthcare products) or services (such as transport or logistics). The CCI emphasises that the relevant competition provisions already have built-in safeguards to allow for a certain degree of cooperation and that it will 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas (local counsel) (21/03/20) Advisory to Businesses in Time of Covid-19, CCI (19/04/20), plus AZB Partners (local counsel) summary

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
Indonesia Business Competition Supervisory Commission (KPPU)	<p>only consider cooperation strictly necessary to address the Covid-19 pandemic as benefitting from those provisions.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – KPPU has declared that it has not found any indication of a breach of competition law in relation to the trading of face masks, following an own-initiative investigation by KPPU in response to the price hike and scarcity of masks during early February 2020 to 2 March 2020. The investigation showed that there were significant price hikes of 3-ply and N95 masks but KPPU concluded that they were driven by the increase of demand due to the Covid-19 outbreak. – KPPU has requested that businesses do not engage in cartels or agreements to determine excessive prices and do not hoard personal protective equipment, other health products or food – it has indicated that it is prepared to take strict action. – KPPU is investigating complaints that certain hospitals are overcharging for Covid-19 rapid testing. – Despite the large-scale social restrictions imposed in Jakarta due to the Covid-19 outbreak, KPPU is maintaining its supervision of competition in the market, in particular in relation to food staples including sugar, rice, beef, chicken meat and eggs. – On 13 April 2020, KPPU initiated an investigation into anti-competitive 'tying' practices, alleging that hospitals have been bundling Covid-19 rapid tests with other services. – KPPU will not object if the Government exempts Indonesian companies from opening a public tender for the import of personal protective equipment. – KPPU has issued a press release in response to a statement by the Minister of State-Owned Enterprises that a syndicate is operating in Indonesia to ensure that the country keeps importing medical devices rather than manufacturing them domestically. KPPU emphasises that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release (in Indonesian), KPPU (03/03/20), plus A&O Jakarta – Press release (in Indonesian), KPPU (24/03/20), plus Mlex summary – PaRR report on information from a senior official (25/03/20) – Press release (in Indonesian), KPPU (08/04/20) – Press release (in Indonesian), KPPU (13/04/20), plus A&O Jakarta – Mlex report on KPPU statement (15/04/20) – Press release (in Indonesian), KPPU (23/04/20), plus A&O Jakarta – Press release (in Indonesian), KPPU (23/04/20), plus A&O Jakarta

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
	<p>healthcare has been one of its primary focuses in the last few years and, given the Covid-19 emergency situation, if the authority finds any evidence of anti-competitive conduct it will likely impose the maximum possible sanctions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In relation to the Government's pre-employment card scheme (a programme has been set up to develop the skills of job seekers and employees who have lost their jobs) which, according to press reports, has been expedited due to the impact on labour markets as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, KPPU has stated that it will request information from the organising body to ensure that antitrust laws are complied with. In particular, KPPU is looking for information on matters such as the appointment of the relevant market participants and the organisation's dual role as both a digital platform and a provider of training services. 	
Japan Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The JFTC has requested industry associations to spread the word that bundling sales of high-demand, non-fungible goods may be in violation of the Anti-monopoly Act. This comes in response to media reports that face masks and other personal hygiene products are being sold bundled with other products. – On 24 April, the JFTC published a statement announcing its view that setting a fixed price ceiling for the sale of certain products such as face masks to avoid resellers charging excessive prices would be justifiable under Japan's antitrust laws. – The JFTC published a statement on 28 April clarifying its approach to cooperative efforts between companies in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In its statement, the JFTC (i) notes that cooperation between competitors which is necessary and temporary in nature to avoid a shortage of supplies would not contravene the country's antitrust laws; and (ii) refers to a published set of initiatives which might be permissible during emergencies, advising businesses to contact the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release (in Japanese), JFTC (28/02/20), plus Mlex summary – Press release (in Japanese), JFTC (24/04/20), plus PaRR summary – Press release (in Japanese), JFTC (28/04/20), plus PaRR summary

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
	authority should they have any doubts regarding activities which are not listed.	
New Caledonia New Caledonia Competition Authority (ACNC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The ACNC will be particularly vigilant in the detection of potential anti-competitive practices during the Covid-19 crisis, especially regarding price fixing and market sharing. – It warns suppliers, distributors and retailers of all economic sectors, but particularly in the consumer goods and healthcare services sectors, to adopt responsible and legal commercial behaviour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release (in French), ACNC (19/03/20), plus PaRR summary
New Zealand New Zealand Commerce Commission (NZCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The NZCC announces it has no intention of taking enforcement action against businesses who are cooperating to ensure New Zealanders continue to be supplied with essential goods and services. It notes however that it will not tolerate unscrupulous businesses using Covid-19 as an excuse for non-essential collusion or anti-competitive behaviour, including sharing information on pricing or strategy where it is not necessary in the current situation. It will issue further guidance shortly. – This is in response to a request by the Government for the NZCC to be more flexible in the application of competition rules and take account of the exceptional circumstances created by Covid-19 when monitoring business behaviour in coming weeks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Government statement on commercial cooperation during Covid-19, Government (22/03/20) – Covid-19 - Commerce Commission approach to essential goods and services business cooperation, NZCC (22/03/20)

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Singapore Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS)	– CCCS activities are business as usual.	– A&O Singapore (23/03/20)
South Korea Korea Fair Trade Commission (KFTC)	– The KFTC has put dawn raids and interviews involving face-to-face encounters during investigations on hold. In-person interviews will be replaced by written investigation reports unless there is a case with a short limitation period.	– Mlex report (25/03/20)
Taiwan, China Taiwan Fair Trade Commission (TFTC)	– TFTC has been investigating into deliberate stocking and joint price hiking during the Covid-19 crisis.	– Yangming Law (local counsel) (23/03/20)
Thailand Office of Trade Competition Commission (OTCC)	– The OTCC is monitoring the activities of food delivery companies to see whether their activities may breach Thailand's antitrust laws.	– PaRR report (06/04/20)
Vietnam Vietnam Competition and Consumer Authority (VCCA)	– Police in Vietnam have arrested seven individuals over alleged bid-rigging practices in relation to the supply of Covid-19 testing machines.	– Mlex report (23/04/20)
Middle East & Africa		
Egypt Egyptian Competition Authority (ECA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The ECA has indicated that it is willing to consider granting informal advice to parties and their advisers as to whether cooperation in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic may benefit from existing exemptions under Egypt's competition law. The ECA has set up a dedicated mailbox for receiving such enquiries. It has also reiterated that it will take action against parties using the crisis to engage in anti-competitive practices. – The ECA has warned dominant firms not to engage in abusive practices, including refusals to supply, produce or distribute goods or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statement, ECA (09/04/20) – PaRR report (17/04/20)

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
	services to or for other market participants during the Covid-19 pandemic.	
Israel Israeli Competition Authority (ICA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The ICA recognises that, in this time of crisis, more collaborations among competitors may fall within the framework of the Block Exemption for Collaborations than would normally be the case. But Israeli antitrust laws will continue to apply in full force to illegal collaborations and business entities abusing the current situation. – The ICA is investigating whether or not the activities of a newly-formed trade association for fashion and commercial chains has breached the country's competition laws. 200 chains joined an agreement not to open stores in protest at a lack of competition and continuing restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Herzog Fox & Neeman (local counsel) (18/03/20) – Globes press report (26/04/20)
Kenya Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The CAK has warned manufacturers and retailers that manipulating prices or hoarding of goods during the outbreak is an infringement and liable for penalty under the country's antitrust rules. – The CAK has ordered manufacturers and suppliers of items such as maize flour, wheat flour, edible oils, rice, sanitisers, and toilet paper to remove exclusivity clauses in light of the coronavirus pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – PaRR report on emailed statement from CAK (13/03/20) – PaRR report on emailed statement from CAK (20/03/20)
Malawi Competition and Fair Trading Commission (CFTC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CFTC orders eleven pharmacies to stop excessive pricing of hand sanitisers, face masks and gloves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – @CFTCMalawi tweet, CFTC (23/03/20)
Mauritius Competition Commission of Mauritius (CCM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CCM has warned suppliers about engaging in anti-competitive conduct during the Covid-19 pandemic but also assures businesses that it will not unduly constrain or impede necessary and critical cooperation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – PaRR report (10/04/20)

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Namibia Namibian Competition Commission (NaCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The NaCC has found that some retailers of healthcare and hygiene products have artificially increased prices in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak. It has issued a cautionary notice to all retailers to avoid artificially inflated prices. – It has set up a dedicated team to prioritise complaints relating to essential healthcare and hygiene products. – The NaCC also notes it is in discussion with the Government to ensure that competition law enforcement does not impede necessary cooperation between business to deal with the current crisis and ensure security of supplies of essential products and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – @CompCo_Nam tweet, NaCC (24/03/20)
Nigeria Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FCCPC has warned suppliers, retailers and online shopping platforms from arbitrarily increasing prices of critical hygiene products. – FCCPC has begun court proceedings against four supermarkets for alleged collusion in the price of sanitary suppliers, including hand sanitiser and disinfectant, also alleging that the products were being sold at "unjust" prices. – FCCPC has published a framework to exempt a category of agreements and practices between undertakings from the application of Nigeria's antitrust laws. Such permitted practices include cooperation on the supply and distribution of essential products and services; cooperation in the health and relief sectors facilitated by trade associations; and putting in place temporary and proportionate measures which are encouraged and/or coordinated by a public authority to adapt production, stock management and, potentially, distribution in the health sector. – At an online conference organised by the UN Conference on Trade and Development, Director General of FCCPC Babatunde Irukera remarked that the authority has formed a special investigative unit to deal with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Press release, FCCPC (23/03/20) – Premium Times (30/03/20), plus PaRR summary – Business guidance relating to Covid-19 on business co-operation/collaboration and certain consumer rights under the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act (FCCPA), FCCPC (04/20) – PaRR report on comments by Babatunde Irukera (29/04/20)

Jurisdiction/region/antitrust authority	Antitrust statement/development	Source
South Africa Competition Commission of South Africa (CompCom)	complaints and monitor markets in relation to practices such as price increases for essential products.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Minister of Trade and Industry has published block exemption regulations for the healthcare sector. These exempt certain agreements or practices from the application of the South African rules on restrictive horizontal and vertical practices if they are undertaken at the request of, and in coordination with, the Department of Health. But they do not permit the cooperation on pricing unless specifically authorised by the Minister. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Covid-19 block exemption for the Healthcare Sector, 2020, Government (19/03/20)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Government has published block exemptions for the hotel sector. These exempt certain agreements including cost reductions and price co-ordination in relation to persons placed under quarantine as well as the exchange of information in relation to cost and availability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Various local counsel – PaRR report (31/03/20) – @CompComSA tweet, CompCom (31/03/20)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Block exemptions have also been passed in relation to agreements between retail property landlords and retail tenants active in the clothing, footwear and home textile sector, personal care sector and restaurants services sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tribunal directive for Covid-19 excessive pricing complaint referrals, Competition Tribunal (06/03/20)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CompCom has received over 500 complaints about price increases in South Africa and has started preliminary investigations against 100 retailers. CompCom is also monitoring price hikes in the agricultural sector and monitoring the "spiralling" price of products such as wheat, white maize, tomatoes and onions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – PaRR report on emailed statement by CompCom (15/04/20) – Tribunal approves first consent agreement relating to Covid-19 excessive pricing, Competition Tribunal (20/04/20)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Competition Tribunal has resolved that it will resolve Covid-19-related excessive pricing complaints on an urgent/expedited basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – PaRR report (24/04/20) – Tribunal approves second consent agreement relating to Covid-19 excessive pricing, Competition Tribunal (24/04/20)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CompCom has referred a clothing manufacturer to the Competition Tribunal over alleged excessive pricing of face masks. CompCom also noted that it had found four other entities were found to have charged excessive prices for basic necessities but have not yet been referred. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – PaRR report on emailed statement by CompCom (30/04/20)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Competition Tribunal has approved its first consent agreement relating to excessive pricing in the Covid-19 crisis. Under the terms of the consent agreement, a pharmacy in Gauteng must donate hand sanitisers, surgical gloves and face masks (up to a certain value) to two old-age care homes after it was found to be charging excessive prices for face masks during the national state of disaster. – CompCom has referred a pharmaceutical distributor to the Competition Tribunal after finding that it increased prices for PPE during the Covid-19 crisis. CompCom has asked the Competition Tribunal to impose the maximum penalties possible. – The Competition Tribunal approved a second consent agreement under which a hardware store in Gauteng must refund its customers for excessive prices charged for surgical gloves during the Covid-19 lockdown. – A distributor of essential goods which charged inflated prices for essential items including face masks has reached a settlement agreement for ZAR5.9m with CompCom. CompCom has referred the settlement to the Competition Tribunal. 	
Tanzania Fair Competition Commission (FCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Government has called on the FCC to monitor the pricing of medical and sanitary goods (such as hand sanitiser, disinfectant and protective gear) during the crisis to ensure that prices are kept at reasonable levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – PaRR report (27/03/20)

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Zambia Competition Commission of Zambia (ZCC)	– ZCC has warned businesses against excessive pricing of products such as masks, gloves and hand sanitisers.	– @CompComZambia tweet , ZCC (21/03/20)

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