



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

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INAUGURAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ECOWAS REGIONAL COMPETITION AUTHORITY (ERCA)

THEME

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

PROGRAMME

Duration: 3 days

08:30 – 09:00: Registration of Participants

09:00 – 10:00: Official Opening Ceremony

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

10:00 – 10:30: Break/ Networking

DAY 1 – Institutional Framework and Regional Cooperation

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

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

Panelists (3): Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture, ECOWAS Commission

♦ Mr. Mod K. Ceesay, Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment of
The Gambia ♦ Prof. Eleonor Fox, professor emerita at New York University School of Law.

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

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

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

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

Panel Discussion: Cooperation, Coordination tools, institutional asymmetries, data sharing

Panelists (4): Dr. Troy Waterman, Executive Director of CARICOM Competition Commission

◆ Dr. Willard Mwemba CEO of CCCC ◆ Mr. Malick Diallo AfCFTA Head of Competition Division

◆ Mr. Sudesh Puran, Head of Investigation of Competition Commission of Mauritius

◆ Dr. Seydou Sacko, Fmr Competition Officer of ECOWAS Commission

13:00 – 14:15: Lunch Break

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

Moderator: Mr. Bashiru Njie, Executive Secretary of GCCPC

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

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

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

Panelists (5): Mr. Gaye Sowe, Director of Legal Affairs of ECOWAS Commission ◆ Prof. Alban

Ahouré, Commissioner of Côte d'Ivoire National Competition Commission ◆ Mr. Melaine

Tchokponhoue, Director of Competition – UEMOA ◆ Mrs. Annie L. Nyama Ortiz, Director of Trade and Competition CEMAC. ◆ Rafael Mburu, Manager Merger and Acquisition of Competition

Authority of Kenya

15:30 – 16:30: Breakout Group Sessions

Group 1: Harmonisation of Legal Frameworks.

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

Group 2: Governance and Independence of Competition Authorities.

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

Group 3: Regional Cooperation and Information Exchange.

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

Group 4: Strengthening Technical and Operational Capacities.

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

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

17:15 – 17:30: Key Messages and Reflections from Day 1: Closing the Gaps: International Cooperation Across the Competition Enforcement Chain, Professor Marek Martyniszyn, Chair of Competition Law and Policy, Queen's University Belfast, School of Law.

DAY 2 – Competition, Market Transformation and Strategic Sectors

09:00 – 10:00: Plenary Session 3: Competition Policy and Regional Value Chain Integration

Moderator: Ms. Sonia Plaza, Program Manager, World Bank.

Keynote Address (10 mins): Competition as an Enabler of Integrated Markets.

Speaker: Dr. Mor Bakhoun, ERCA Council Member.

Panel Discussion: How competition policy reduces market fragmentation; The role of competitive markets in strengthening regional production systems; Linking competition enforcement with trade facilitation and industrial development; Why open and contestable markets are essential for attracting investment into regional value chains.

Panelists (3): Prof. Bamba N'galadjo Lambert, Fmr. Commissioner of Macroeconomic Policy of the ECOWAS Commission ♦ Mr. Makhfou Mahecor Diouf, Competition Division of African Development Bank ♦ Mr. Christian Lasser, Industrial Development Expert, UNIDO.

10:00 – 11:15: Plenary Session 4: Competition in Digital Markets: Emerging Challenges and Regulatory Responses

Moderator: Dr. Chilufya Sampa, Expert at Shamba Centre for Food & Climate and Fmr. Executive Director of Zambia Competition Authority.

Keynote Address (10 mins): Competition Enforcement in the Digital Economy.

Speaker: Mr. Babatunde Irukera, Fmr. Executive-Vice Chairman of FCCPC, Simon Cooper, partner.

Panel Discussion: Digital platforms and market power, Fintech and e-commerce, Data governance and competition, Innovation and consumer welfare.

Panelists (3): Mr. Yongama Njisane, South Africa Competition Commission ♦ Mr. Leonard Ugabajah, ERCA Council member ♦ Dr. Vellah Kigwiru, Doctoral Research Fellow.

11:15 – 11:45: Coffee Break

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

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

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

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

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

Panelists (4): Mr. Charles Ndiaye, Ag. President of ERERA ♦ Ms. Adefunke ADEYEMI

Secretary General African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) ♦ Mr. Roger Koffi, Head of Dispute Resolution Department, ARTCI ♦ Mr. Dave Anderson, Office Managing Partner- BCLP.

13:00 – 14:30: Lunch

14:30 – 16:00: Sectoral Breakout Sessions

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

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

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

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

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

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

Group 4: Addressing Market Concentration and Barriers to Entry

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

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

17:15 – 17:30: Key Message and Reflections from Day 2: How competition can help small and medium-size enterprises to overcome their constraints (barriers to entry, for example, production size etc.), Prof. Pierre Damien Habumuremyi, former Prime Minister of Rwanda, Continental Board Chairman of the Pan African Alliance of Small & Medium Industries (PAOSMI)

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

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

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

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

Speaker: Prof. Frederic Jenny, Emeritus Professor of Economics, ESSEC Business School

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

Panelists(3): Mr. Boniface Makongo, Director of Competition COMESA CCC ♦ Ms. Florence Abebe Head, Anti-Competitive Practices Department FCCPC ♦ Ms. Stellah Onyancha Ag. Registrar EACCA;

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

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

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

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

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

Panelists (3): Mr. Michael James Curie, Primero ♦ Mr. Emmanuelle REILLE, GIDE LOYRETTE NOUEL ♦ Mr. Gabriel Ambrosio Umabano, Researcher, Research Center in Economic, Financial and Tax Law of the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon (CIDEFF).

11:00 – 11:20: Coffee Break

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

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

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

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

Panel Discussion: Business perspective: regulatory burden vs predictability, Lawyers' perspective: clarity of rules and enforcement procedures, Regulators' perspective:

enforcement challenges and market realities; Building trust between authorities and market participants; Reform priorities to improve effectiveness and cooperation.

Panelists (4): Mr. Ignace Mossou Niamkey, Regional Director Legal & Ethics of Olam group

◆ *Mr. Aminou Akadiri, Executive Director of FEWACCI* ◆ *Carin Smaller, Executive Director*

Shamba Centre ◆ *Dr. Ken Ukoha, President of National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANT).*

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

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

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

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

Fmr President of the Competition Appeal Court, South Africa.

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

Panelists (3): Mr. Nnamdi Dimgba, Justice of the Court of Appeal, Nigeria; ECOWAS Court of

Justice ◆ *Prof. Frederic Jenny, Emeritus Professor of Economics, ESSEC Business School*

◆ *Mr. Yves Kenfack, UNCTAD.*

13:20 – 13:50: Closing Panel

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

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

Key lessons from the conference and emerging consensus (5 to 8 mins) :

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

Panelists (2): Ms. Teresa Morera, Fmr. Head of UNTACD Competition Division ◆ *Dr. Simeon KOFFI, Executive Director of ERCA.*



13:50 – 14:15: Official Closing Ceremony

Conference Declaration by the Executive Director of ERCA.

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

14:15 – 15:00: Lunch.

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

End of Conference



LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
ARTCI	Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications de Côte d'Ivoire
AU	African Union
BCLP	Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner (International Law Firm)
CARICOM CC	Caribbean Community Competition Commission
CCC	Consultative Competition Committee (of ERCA)
CEMAC	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMESA CCC	COMESA Competition and Consumer Commission
EACCA	East African Community Competition Authority
EBID	ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ENS	ENSAfrica (Pan-African Law Firm)
ERCA / ARCC	ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority / Autorité Régionale de la Concurrence de la CEDEAO
ERERA	ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority
ESSEC	École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales – Business School
EU	European Union
FCCPC	Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (Nigeria)
FEWACCI	Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and Industry
GCCPC	Gambia Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
GLN	Gide Loyrette Nouel (International Law Firm)
ICN	International Competition Network
NANTS	National Association of Nigerian Traders
NCP	National Commission for Privatisation (Sierra Leone)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
SDKJ-ICC	Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Centre
UEMOA	Union Économique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine
UNCTAD	United Nations Trade and Development
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization