



NEWSLETTER

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No. 110

2019.12

Weekly Competition Law News

By Lifang & Partners

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Domestic News

Hunan AMR Fines 7 Local Bottled LPG Companies for Collusion

On 11 December 2019, China's State Administration for Market Regulation ("SAMR") published the sanction decisions in which the Administration for Market Regulation of Hunan Province ("Hunan AMR") fined 7 local bottled liquefied petroleum gas ("LPG") companies around CNY 410,000 in total for collusion. Hunan AMR found that the companies involved reached a decade-long *Cooperation Agreement* and specified the accounting proportion of operating income and the uniform sale prices, which violated the relevant provision of the *Anti-Monopoly Law* ("AML"). ([More](#))

Shanxi AMR Concludes 8 Antitrust Cases

On 11 December 2019, in a press conference held by the Administration for Market Regulation of Shanxi Province ("Shanxi AMR"), Yuan Yuan, the director of the Anti-Monopoly and Anti-Unfair Competition Division, said that Shanxi AMR had organized specialized forces to probe the possible antitrust violations in the fields of official seals, building materials, public utilities, active pharmaceutical ingredients ("APIs"), etc., and concluded 8 cases this year. Meanwhile, in the special action against APIs-related monopolies, Shanxi AMR had investigated 9 clues to potential violations under the arrangement of SAMR. ([More](#))

Guizhou High People's Court to Hear a Gas Company's Antitrust Appeal on Dec. 17

Recently, the Guizhou High People's Court announced that it would hear a gas company's antitrust appeal on 17 December 2019. The appellant is Liupanshui Yumin LPG Co., Ltd, while the appellees include Liupanshui Chengda Trading Co., Ltd., Liupanshui Ruian LPG Co., Ltd., and Baijiang Southwest Gas Co., Ltd. Shuicheng Gas Storage (Case No.: (2019) Qin Min Zhong No. 898). The hearing will stream live at <http://tingshen.court.gov.cn/live/9615356>. ([More](#))

SAMR Replies to a NPC Deputy over Competition Policy

Recently, SAMR published a response to the suggestion of a deputy to the National People's Congress ("NPC"), indicating that, in recent years, the antitrust authorities had actively carried out the antitrust enforcement, continually improved the market competition rules, deeply implemented the *Fair Competition Review System* ("FCRS"), deepened basic research on competition policy, strengthened competition policy advocacy and deeply promoted the reformation and supervision. As for the further arrangement, SAMR would accompany with the relevant departments to further strengthen the top design of the competition policy, press ahead with the investigation of major cases, deeply implement the FCRS, improve the antitrust rules, foster the culture of fair competition and promote the reformation and supervision. ([More](#))

Overseas News

Germany: Steel Manufacturers Fined EUR 646m for Agreeing on Prices of Quarto Plates

On 12 December 2019, Germany's antitrust watchdog, the Bundeskartellamt, announced that it had imposed fines totaling around EUR 646m on Ilsenburger Grobblech GmbH, thyssenkrupp Steel Europe AG and voestalpine Grobblech GmbH as well as three individuals responsible for exchanging information on and agreeing certain price supplements and surcharges for quarto plates in Germany. Dillinger Hüttenwerke, a public limited company which also participated in the agreement, was the first company to cooperate with the Bundeskartellamt and so was granted full immunity from fines. ([More](#))

Netherlands' Competition Watchdog Imposes a Fine of EUR 1.84m for Obstructing Antitrust Investigation

On 11 December 2019, the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets ("ACM") announced that it had imposed a fine of EUR 1.84m on a company for obstructing an ACM investigation. During the recent dawn raid on the company suspected of violating the Dutch Competition Act, the company's employees left WhatsApp groups and deleted chats. These chats could have contained evidence related to the investigation. ([More](#))

Nokia Halts Legal Action Against Daimler with Mediation Offer in Patent Row

On 9 December 2019, *Reuters* reported that Finnish telecoms equipment maker Nokia had suspended legal action against German carmaker Daimler in the hope that mediation will resolve their dispute over technology licensing fees. Nokia said on Monday that constructive negotiation was the best way to resolve matters. And to ensure there was time for this mediation to be successful, Nokia had unilaterally chosen to postpone the pending hearing on 10 December in Germany. ([More](#))

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