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SAMR Issues Antitrust Work Review During the 13th Five-Year Plan Period

On March 18, 2021, the State Administration for Market Regulation (“SAMR”) issued the antitrust work review during the 13th Five-Year Plan period. During this period, SAMR reformed the antitrust agency, preliminarily established antitrust enforcement system, published a series of antitrust guidelines, formulated fair competition policies, strengthened antitrust enforcement in the field of active pharmaceutical ingredients and platform economy, handled several typical antitrust cases, improved the antitrust review process for concentration of undertakings, and reinforced international cooperation regarding antitrust enforcement. ([More](#))

Sichuan AMR Releases the Full Text of the Sanction Decisions against Sichuan Cement Association and Six Cement Companies

On March 16, 2021, the Sichuan Provincial Administration for Market Regulation (“Sichuan AMR”) released the full text of the sanction decisions against the Sichuan Cement Association and six cement companies in a monopoly agreement case. In the January of 2021, Sichuan AMR published the basic information of the penalty decision of the case. The full text of the decisions disclosed in detail the agreement between the Cement Association and related companies, as well as the considering factors of Sichuan AMR when deciding penalties. In this case, the Sichuan Cement Association and six involved companies were fined nearly CNY 60 million in total for implementing horizontal monopoly agreement. ([More](#))

SAMR Releases 10 Gun-Jumping Cases in the Internet Field

On March 12, 2021, SAMR released administrative sanction decisions of 10 gun-jumping cases in the internet field, involving many well-known internet companies such as Tencent, Baidu, and Didi. In eight cases, the companies involved obtained control of the acquired enterprises but failed to notify, and in the rest cases, the companies involved established joint ventures but failed to notify. After evaluation, none of these cases had the effect of eliminating or restricting competition. According to the *Anti-Monopoly Law*, SAMR imposed a maximum penalty of CNY 500,000 on each of the twelve companies involved. ([More](#))

Overseas News

CMA Publishes 2021 Merger Assessment Guidelines

On March 18, 2021, the Competition & Market Authority (“CMA”) published *2021 Merger Assessment Guidelines* (“**2021 Guidelines**”). the *2021 Guidelines* are built on the basis of *Unlocking Digital Competition: Report from the Digital Competition Expert Panel* and *Ex-post Assessment of Merger Control Decisions in Digital Markets* reports, supplementing the content on digital merger evaluation. When evaluating whether digital merger would significantly limit the competition, CMA will focus on the potential for future competition, innovation and other non-price related effects. Meanwhile, *2021 Guidelines* also update to take account of the CMA’s recent experience and case law. ([More](#))

EU Commission Opens an Antitrust Investigation Against Greece PPC

On March 16, 2021, the EU Commission announced that it opened an investigation to assess possible abusive behavior by Public Power Corporation (“PPC”) in the wholesale Greek electricity sector. PPC is the largest supplier of retail and wholesale electricity in Greece. PPC is majority owned by the Greek State. It controls all lignite and hydro as well as some of the natural gas and renewable power generation plants. It is also active in the supply of energy to retail and business consumers where it still has more than two-thirds market share. The Commission is concerned that PPC may have restricted competition in the Greek wholesale electricity markets with its bidding behavior. PPC may have adopted predatory bidding strategies hindering the ability of PPC rivals to compete in the wholesale and related electricity markets. ([More](#))

Antitrust Authorities Form a Multilateral Working Group on Pharmaceutical Mergers

On March 16, 2021, several antitrust authorities announced that they will launch a multilateral working group to update their approach to analyzing the competition effects of pharmaceutical mergers. Initiated by the Federal Trade Commission, the working group will include the Canadian Competition Bureau, the European Commission Directorate General for Competition, the UK’s Competition & Markets Authority, the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division, and Offices of State Attorneys General. The goal of the working group is to identify concrete and actionable steps to review and update the analysis of pharmaceutical mergers. This joint project taps expertise and experiences from competition authorities to ensure the most effective enforcement in these crucial markets. The project will ensure that the authorities include fresh approaches that fully analyze and address the varied competitive concerns that these pharmaceutical mergers raise. ([More](#))


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