



NEWSLETTER

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Weekly Competition Law News

By Lifang & Partners

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Domestic News

Guangdong AMR Plans to Fine 19 Concrete Suppliers CNY 7.65m for Collusion

On 29 October 2019, the Administration for Market Regulation of Guangdong Province (“Guangdong AMR”) held an open hearing applied for and attended by 9 of 19 concrete companies involved in a cartel case. Guangdong AMR found that these 19 concrete companies in Maoming City colluded to adjust the price of concrete in the same period by meeting and exchanging sensitive business information through the WeChat group, which violated Article 13 of the *Anti-Monopoly Law*. Guangdong AMR planned to impose a total fine of approximately CNY 7.65m upon these companies. ([More](#))

Guangdong Establishes Competition Law Research Association

Recently, the inaugural meeting of the Antitrust and Anti-unfair Competition Law Research Association of Guangdong Law Society was held at Jinan University. Prof. Guo Zongjie, the Director of the Competition Law and Industry Development Research Centre of Jinan University, was elected as the president of the Association. The deputy presidents of the Association include Su Xiaohu, the Director of the Anti-Monopoly Division of Guangdong AMR, Prof. Ye Weiping, the Dean of Shenzhen University Law School, etc. The Association is the fourth provincial professional competition law research association launched by colleges and universities in China after the establishment of its counterparts in Zhejiang, Shanghai and Hubei. ([More](#))

Overseas News

Google Calls Out Former Competitors Working for Texas AG in Antitrust Probe

On 31 October 2019, *CNBC* reported that Google filed a motion Thursday asking Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to prevent confidential business from being disclosed as Paxton heads up a multistate probe into the company over possible antitrust violations. Google and its parent company, Alphabet, seek to stop Paxton from sharing “confidential business information” with outside consultants retained to work on the antitrust investigation. Google claims two of the consultants, Cristina Caffarra and Eugene Burrus, previously worked for competitors and complainants of the company. ([More](#))

Apple May Get French Antitrust Fine

On 30 October 2019, Apple released its 2019 Annual Report. In June 2019, the French Competition Authority (“FCA”) issued a report alleging that aspects of Apple’s sales and distribution practices in France violate French competition law, Apple said in the Annual Report. Apple vigorously disagreed with the allegations, and a hearing of arguments was held before the FCA on October 15, 2019. It was awaiting the decision of the FCA, which may include a fine. ([More](#))

Huawei Brings Antitrust Complaint Against Nokia in German Court

On 30 October 2019, FOSS Patents blogger Florian Mueller wrote that Huawei recently filed an anti-trust complaint against Nokia with the Dusseldorf Regional Court, asking the court to order Nokia to make a FRAND licensing offer to Huawei that would result in an exhaustive SEP license covering Huawei's cellular connectivity modules. Previously, Nokia filed patent infringement lawsuits against Daimler in German courts, claiming that Daimler infringed its several wireless SEPs. A number of suppliers of telematics control units ("TCUs") to Daimler are intervening in the infringement case. Cellular communications modules are at the heart of many TCUs. ([More](#))

DOJ Testifies Before House Judiciary Committee on Competition in Labor Markets

On 29 October 2019, the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") announced that counsel to the Assistant Attorney General of the Antitrust Division Doha Mekki testified before House Judiciary Committee on competition in labor markets. Mekki said that the topic of competition in labor markets could not be more timely or important. Anticompetitive behavior and transactions are possible in a labor market just as they are in other markets. His testimony mainly contains three parts: (i) labor monopsony in mergers; (ii) conspiracies and coordinated conduct; and (iii) advocacy. ([More](#))

India Probe Finds AB InBev, Carlsberg, United Breweries Colluded on Prices

Recently, *Reuters* reported that the Competition Commission of India ("CCI") had concluded that Anheuser-Busch InBev ("AB InBev"), Carlsberg and United Breweries colluded to fix beer prices, two people with direct knowledge said. The investigation had found that 15-20 executives from the three brewers were involved in discussions of beer prices before they were submitted to Indian state regulators. The CCI launched the investigation after AB InBev told the watchdog it had detected an industry cartel, leading in 2018 to dawn raids at the three brewers' offices to collect evidence. ([More](#))

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