

Sixth ARAB COMPETITION FORUM (ACF)

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Baghdad, Iraq



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



6th Arab Competition Forum

Ekram Abdul Aziz- Moderator

Advisor at the Competition and Antitrust Council of Iraq

Dr. Ikram Abdulaziz Abdulwahab Al-Aqil is a prominent Iraqi economist with a PhD in Economics from the University of Baghdad. She has over 30 years of experience in financial reform, investment, and housing. Dr. Al-Aqil held several senior positions, including leadership roles at the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning, and the Iraqi Housing Fund. She also served as Head of the National Investment Commission and played a key role in establishing investment bodies across the provinces. Additionally, she served as Deputy Minister of Industry and Minerals and held high-level advisory roles within the Prime Minister's Office.

Nathalie Khaled

Coordinator of competition and consumer protection and national planning and development projects, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA

Nathalie Khaled, Economic Affairs Officer at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Currently, she is leading the implementation of several regional and national Programs at ESCWA, among them: Enhancing competition and consumers protection policies in the Arab region; Enhancing Integrated National Development Planning in the Arab Region and The Arab Business Environment Legislative Framework. She facilitated the e-Cornell University /ESCWA cohort program on Leadership in The Public Sector. In 2018, ESCWA awarded her a Gender Equality Award, in recognition of her efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into major ESCWA publications.

She holds a master's degree in business from the Lebanese American University, and acquiring another Master's Degree in Economics Of Competition Policy from King's College London in addition to a

professional certificate from Cornell University in Public Sector Leadership. She contributed to the production of several publications on socioeconomic developments and economic governance such as the Arab Business Legislative Framework Report as well as developed online courses such as Fighting Bid Rigging in Public Procurement course in addition to the development of knowledge portals and Policy Simulation tools. She served in United Nations peacekeeping before starting her career at ESCWA. Before her journey at the United Nations, Ms. Khaled worked as a quality management consultant and auditor for the American Management Association. She is an ISO-certified consultant.

Akari Yamamoto-Bonenfant

Legal Officer, UN Trade and Development

Ms. Yamamoto-Bonenfant is a Legal Officer at the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch of UNCTAD.

Ms. Yamamoto-Bonenfant has around 15 years of working experience in Japan Fair Trade Commission. Her work included case investigations, international cooperation, competition policy making, leniency policy and practices as well as technical assistance for younger competition authorities (mainly for ASEAN countries).

Ms. Yamamoto-Bonenfant holds a Law Degree by Kyoto University, Japan, and Masters' Degrees in Law by City, University of London and the University of Edinburgh, the United Kingdom.

Antonio Capobianco

Deputy Head of the Competition Division, OECD

Antonio Capobianco is the Deputy Head of the OECD Competition Division. He is responsible for the proceedings of the OECD Competition Committee and for other work streams of the Division. Over the years at the OECD, Mr Capobianco has coordinated a series of OECD projects and work streams and has authored numerous Background Notes of the Secretariat on a wide range of competition law enforcement and policy topics. He has led many in-country projects to support domestic reforms and he regularly represents the OECD at international events.

Prior to joining the OECD in 2007, Mr Capobianco was a Counsel in the Competition Department of WilmerHale LLP, based in Brussels. He also spent three years with the Italian Competition Authority. Mr Capobianco authored several articles on antitrust issues published on major international law journals specialized in competition law and he co-authored textbooks on Italian and European competition law and economics. He regularly speaks at international conferences on antitrust and regulation issues. Mr. Capobianco graduated in law at the L.U.I.S.S. - Guido Carli in Rome and holds LL.M. degrees from the Law School of the New York University and from the Institute of European Studies of the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Francois Souty

Executive President, Cabinet LRACG Conseil

Dr Francois Souty is currently Executive President of LRACG Consulting SAS and Lecturer at Excelia Business School Group (La Rochelle - Tours - Paris). He has been International Affairs Officer at the EU Commission Directorate General of Competition at Brussels (2018-2024) and Senior Counsel for Economics of the EU Project to support the Competition Agency of Georgia at Tbilissi (2017-2018). Prior to these assignments, Dr Souty has been a Regional Office Director at the French Directorate general for Competition, Consumers Affairs and Frauds Repression (DGCCRF) in the French Ministry of Economics, Finance and Digital, OECD Competition Committee Coordinator for UNCTAD and Associate Professor at La Rochelle University (2000-2017). He has authored 15 books and numerous academic publications in Competition Law and Economics, Digital Economy Strategy and Economic History.

Boniface Makongo,

Competition Director, COMESA Competition Commission

Mr. Makongo has over 20 years working experience of which thirteen have been in enforcement of competition and consumer protection. Mr Makongo is currently the Director Competition at the COMESA Competition Commission and was previously the Director, Competition and Consumer Protection at the Competition Authority of Kenya.