



ICN Cartel Working Group Webinar

Assessing Crisis Cartels at times of Covid-19: Lessons learnt from Past Crises

Moderators:

Anastasia Dokukina, Federal Antimonopoly Service of the Russian Federation

Leah McCoy, Antitrust Division, United States Department of Justice

Speakers:

Nicole Rosenboom, Oxera (Dutch NGA)

Pierre Horna, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD

Jeff Martino, BakerHostetler (US NGA)

Anna Glogowska, Office of Competition and Consumer Protection, Poland

Participants: Please keep your microphones muted and your cameras switched off during the webinar. When connecting with browser, the activation of the audio might need to be done manually via the phone icon button (found at the bottom of your screen).

For the Q&A session, please send your questions via the chat window selecting “Everyone”.

Crisis cartels

What does economics tell us?

Dr Nicole Rosenboom
Principal, Oxera

See full article: www.oxera.com/insights/agenda/articles/crisis-cartels-a-covid-19-side-effect/
co-authored with Debby Moore

Other (economic) literature:

- Vitzilaiou, L. (2011), 'Crisis Cartels: For Better or for Worse?', Competition Policy International Antitrust Chronicle, 2, March, <https://bit.ly/3okW6kA>;
- Stephan, A. (2012), 'Price Fixing in Crisis: Implications of an Economic Downturn for Cartels and Enforcement', World Competition, 35:3, pp. 511–28, <https://bit.ly/3ornnS9>
- van Uden, L. (2020). Significant Reduction of a Dutch Cartel Fine due to Exceptional Circumstances, Including the Duration of the Procedure, the Appealing Party's Financial Situation and the Covid-19 Crisis. Journal of European Competition Law & Practice, 11(10), 598-604.



The Crisis cartel in the Polish basketball league

Anna Głogowska, Department of Competition Protection UOKiK

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The impact of COVID-19 on basketball league in Poland

- In relations to COVID-19 pandemic, in March 2020 Polish Basketball League decided to finish earlier the 2019/20 season.
- Clubs issued press statements announcing that they wouldn't pay full amount of the players' salaries for the 2019/2020 season.

Participants in the alleged anticompetitive agreement

- Polish Basketball League
(the organizer of professional men's club basketball league in Poland)
- all basketball clubs (16) that has played in the Polish highest division

The subject of the proceedings

- What were the exact arrangements for payment of players' salaries?
- Did Polish Basketball League and clubs engage in price fixing and exchange of information?

Theory of harm

All basketball clubs playing in the same league compete for players as employees

salary is one of the biggest factors for choosing particular club from all participating in the same league

arrangements could influence player's choice in next season

the better basketball player hired by the club, the higher chance for the club to get a better rank in the league

the higher rank in the league, the better the club's position on the market

Thank you

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