

SPEECH

EU INDIA COMPETITION COOPERATION PROJECT

Date: December 13, 2021

13:35–13:55 (Delhi) including for EU Ambassadors Speech

Mr Seppo NURMI, Deputy Head of Delegation, of the European Union to India and Bhutan,

My colleagues, Member Sangeeta Verma and Member Bishnoi,

Resource persons from the European Union, Italian Competition Authority, French Competition Authority and the project team of Competition Cooperation,

and Officers of CCI!

A very Good Afternoon to all of you from India.

I am glad to be addressing you all today at the commencement of the fourth edition of the EU India Competition Week.

Mr Nurmi, you may recall that, earlier this year, at the invitation of the President of the European Council Mr Charles Michel, Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi participated in the India–EU Leaders’ Meeting on May 8, 2021. This was the first time that the EU hosted a meeting with India in the EU+27 format.

During the said meeting, the leaders expressed their desire to further strengthen the India–EU Strategic Partnership based on a shared commitment to democracy, fundamental freedoms, rule of law and multilateralism.

The shared vision of leadership of India and the EU is inspiring and should bolster the relationship of CCI and DG COMP under the MOU entered by our competition agencies on November 21, 2013.

The technical cooperation program with the EU–Competition Cooperation Project in Asia provides a platform for dialogue and the exchange of good practices between competition authority officials and experts from the EU and India.

We greatly value the annual Competition Weeks (CWs), the Competition Summer Schools and the Visitors Programme. Despite the pandemic, it is highly appreciated that the Competition Week and Summer School have been held smoothly. I hope the Visitors Programme can be re-initiated once the pandemic recedes.

I congratulate officers from DG COMP and CCI for the spirit shown in these testing times.

I am pleased to inform you that, on May 20, 2021 this year, CCI completed 12 years of enforcement, and during this period, our endeavour has been to build and develop a culture of competition in markets through effective enforcement of the law coupled with proactive competition advocacy. Within this short span of time, CCI has examined anti-competitive practices across diverse sectors of the economy. So far, CCI has reviewed around 1100 cases under anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominance, and more than 800 mergers and acquisitions notices.

To supplement the enforcement actions, the Commission also undertakes various advocacy initiatives by engaging with relevant stakeholders to sensitize them about the principles of competition law and to further engender a culture of competition compliance. In this, market studies have become an important tool in

the regulatory arsenal of CCI that helps understand the dynamics and construct of markets. This, in turn, facilitates identifying competition issues besides assisting in targeted interventions. Further, as part of its advocacy mandate, CCI undertakes competition assessment of legislations and rules from time to time to ensure that competition law principles are embedded at the stage of framing the legislation itself.

The regulation of new age market and platform economy continues to be the priority of the agency due to its exponential growth. CCI is working to promote competition in digital markets using enforcement and non-enforcement tools with an emphasis on institutional capacity and knowledge building.

While competition law in every jurisdiction is drafted keeping in view the domestic state of the economy as well as other priorities and specificities of the respective countries, in inter-connected economies and the globalised world, the law has to constantly evolve keeping in view global developments and approaches so as to continuously assimilate best global practices.

I have perused the agenda and find both the topics, i.e., ***Competition enforcement and regulation in digital markets—practical challenges and where next?*** and ***Competition law and enforcement in the pharmaceutical sector*** of contemporary significance and relevance. CCI has done a lot of work in both areas and it will be great to exchange notes to contribute towards cross-learning and capacity building. I place on record our gratitude to the European Union and the Government of India for this wonderful programme under the aegis of the MOU between our agencies.

My best wishes to the program.

Thank you
