



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE ASEAN HEADS OF COMPETITION AGENCIES ON MAINTAINING COMPETITION POLICY IN POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMIC RECOVERY

15th March 2022 via Videoconference

1. We, the Heads of Competition Agencies of ASEAN Member States reiterate the importance for ASEAN to consider competition policy and its role in supporting economic recovery.
2. We acknowledge the importance of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), and discussed the role of competition policy contributing to the objectives of the ACRF.
3. We observe that a closer governmental engagement is critical to facilitate economic recovery. As part of the efforts to support economic recovery in ASEAN, the ASEAN Member States, led by Indonesia, undertook a Study on “*The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic and Economic Recovery to Competition Law and Policy*” to identify measures taken by competition agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. We reaffirm the Joint Statement by the [ASEAN Experts Group on Competition \(AEGC\) in Response to the Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#) which was issued in June 2020, and acknowledge the need for ASEAN to adopt a common understanding on the enforcement of competition law to maintain and improve competition in the region, and agreed to take the following actions:
 - a. Support economic recovery by focusing enforcement efforts on strategic markets and industries that are important for economic recovery, and streamlining processes to make them business-friendly;
 - b. Strengthen advocacy efforts to policymakers from an early stage to ensure that competition issues form part of their considerations in developing new policies and regulations;
 - c. Provide the government and other relevant legislative bodies with advice and recommendations on competition law and policy;
 - d. Ensure that anti-competitive activities do not take place under the guise of economic recovery, and cooperate with other competition authorities as appropriate to curtail such anti-competitive activities;
 - e. Enhance our national and regional capacity to assess and handle competition issues relating to digital markets; and
 - f. Strengthen our outreach to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
