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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Conference: “Towards fairer markets in Africa and the EU - Fostering international partnerships in competition policy” - Friday 17 February 2023**

**Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023:** The European Commission’s Directorate General for Competition (DG COMP) and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) of the European Commission are very pleased to announce the launch of the **Conference “Towards fairer markets in Africa and the EU - Fostering international partnerships in competition policy”** following the **second Africa-EU Competition Week**.

**The Conference “Towards fairer markets in Africa and the EU - Fostering international partnerships in competition policy” will take place on Friday, 17 February 2023 at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium.**

A first of its kind, the Conference will provide a platform to discuss major developments and challenges in competition policy in Africa and the EU, bringing together representatives from the EU and its Member States and more than 25 African regional and national authorities.

Leading academics, practitioners and officials from the EU, EU Member States and Africa will take part in the event, which will consist of three panels covering competition policy in the digital age, regional and international cooperation in competition law enforcement and recent developments in competition policy in regard to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Some of the confirmed speakers are:

- Dr Frédéric Jenny (Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee);
- Mr Guillaume Lorient (Deputy Director-General of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Competition);
- Ms Margarida Matos Rosa (President of the Autoridade da Concorrência - Portugal);
- Dr Willard Mwemba (Director & Chief Executive Officer of COMESA Competition Commission);
- Mr Hardin Ratshisusu (Deputy Commissioner of the South Africa Competition Commission).

The Conference is targeted at heads of authorities and agency leaders working on Competition or Competition related matters from the public and private sector from Africa and the EU.

Live interpretation during the Conference (English/French) will be provided.

Registrations are open to the public and can be done by filling out the registration form on <https://africa.competitioncooperation.eu/conference-on-african-competition-policy>. Due to the limited number of seats for in-person attendance, registrations will be followed by a confirmation email.

With these events, the European Commission and African national and regional competition authorities continue developing the new platform for exchange and dialogue on competition policy and enforcement created during the first Competition Week. The objective is to encourage convergence in the area of competition policies and to promote the creation of a market that benefits consumers and companies both in Africa and the EU.

For more information about the project, please visit the <https://africa.competitioncooperation.eu/>

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