

North American officials discuss competition agenda in the region

- *The heads of the competition authorities from Canada, the United States and Mexico covered topics such as the size of the companies, challenges posed by the digital economy, privacy and data protection, striking the right balance between regulation and competition, as well as their ongoing work.*

Mexico City, November 8, 2018.- Heads from the Federal Economic Competition Commission (COFECE or Commission), the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the U.S. Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice (DoJ), and the Competition Bureau of Canada (CBC) met to hold their annual trilateral meeting of the region's competition agencies in Mexico City. The meeting has the purpose of discussing current and priority competition topics for each jurisdiction.

The meeting included COFECE's Chairwoman, Alejandra Palacios, the Federal Trade Commission's Chairman, Joseph J. Simons, Assistant Attorney General, Makan Delrahim of the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division, and Matthew Boswell, Canadian Acting Commissioner. During their meeting, participants underscored, among other points, the following:

- The relevance of the competition chapter, which was the first of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement to be concluded between these countries.
- Large company size alone is not sanctionable, without abuse of dominance. Sanctioning companies because of their size disincentivizes development and innovation. Furthermore, they pointed out that competition legislation does not sanction size but conducts.
- The relevance of striking the right balance between regulation and competition, in such a way that sectoral authorities and competition agencies work together to promote this public policy.



For COFECE, the exchange of experiences between North American competition agencies is of great importance in the current economic context. Furthermore, this activity allows for best practices to be routinely implemented.

Trilateral meetings are grounded in the 1995 cooperation agreements signed between Canada and the United States and the United States and Mexico in 2001. The cooperation instruments commit the competition authorities to working together to ensure the sound and effective enforcement of their competition policy and law.

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The Federal Economic Competition Commission is entrusted with safeguarding competition and free market access. This contributes to people’s well-being and the efficient functioning of markets. With its work, COFECE seeks better conditions for consumers, more services of higher quality and a “level playing field” for companies.

