



Competition &  
Innovation Lab



CSC  
Center for Sustainability and Climate

جامعة الامير سلطان  
PRINCE SULTAN  
UNIVERSITY



# 1st MENA Antitrust Policy Symposium 2025

The first edition of a premier event with leading enforcers, scholars,  
and practitioners to discuss competition law in the MENA region

May 1, 2025  
8.30 am To 3.00 pm

Prince Sultan University  
Ground Floor Auditorium, B105  
Rafha Street, Riyadh 11586  
Saudi Arabia

الهيئة العامة للمنافسة  
General Authority for Competition



BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.



# 1st MENA Antitrust Policy Symposium 2025

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## Dr. Ahmed Al-Yamani

President,  
Prince Sultan University

Dr. Ahmed Al-Yamani is the President of Prince Sultan University - the first private, nonprofit university in Saudi Arabia.

He has played a significant role in the Sustainable Development Goals initiatives at the university, and under his leadership, the Center for Sustainability and Climate was established. Al-Yamani is the founding editor of the PSU Research Review: An International Interdisciplinary Journal and was a board member of the National Commission of Assessment and Academic Accreditation, the National Center for Assessment (Qiyas), and the Ministry of Education (MOE) Committee for the Evaluation of Distance Learning in Higher Education.

He recently contributed to the MOE's workshop on new regulations for private colleges and universities and to a post-COVID-19 university readiness forum for the academic year 2021-2022.



## Dr. Fahad Al-Shathri

CEO General Competition Authority,  
Chair Arab Competition Network

Dr. Fahad Al-Shathri is CEO of the General Competition Authority, and the Chair of the Arab Competition Network.

He holds a PhD in economics from Lehigh University, US, and is considered one of the influential leaders in the economic and financial sector, as he led and directed economic research activities at the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA).

Al-Shathri assumed leadership of supervisory and regulatory oversight tasks at SAMA, was executive director and board member of the International Monetary Fund, represented the Kingdom in the G20, membership of the Basel Committee on Banking Legislation, and chaired the Technical Committee of the Islamic Financial Services Board.





# Symposium Organizers



## Aurelien Portuese

Aurelien Portuese is a Research Professor and the Founding Director of the Competition & Innovation Lab at the George Washington University. Professor Portuese is also a Special Editor of the Antitrust Law Journal for the symposium 'Beyond Dynamic Competition', and a member of the Jury of the Antitrust Writing Awards of Concurrences. Professor Portuese is also a Researcher at the College de France of the University of Paris (PSL) where he works with Professor Philippe Aghion on innovation economics at the Farhi Innovation Lab.



## Hugh Hollman

Hugh Hollman is an antitrust partner at Baker Botts LLP with over 20 years of experience as a private practitioner, in-house counsel, and regulator. His extensive background spans the U.S., EU, Middle East, and Africa, providing him with a deep understanding of the regulatory regimes in these regions. Hugh previously served as an Attorney Advisor to Chairman Kovacic at the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. He also led Saudi Aramco's competition group. He is an advisor to the Business at OECD Competition Committee and is a member of the International Bar Association's Antitrust Section's Merger Working Group. Additionally, he is on the editorial boards of the ABA Section of Antitrust Law's Antitrust Magazine and Oxford University Press's Journal of Antitrust Enforcement. Legal 500 noted that Hugh is "distinguished for his work on global merger reviews."



## Mohammad Nurunnabi

Mohammad Nurunnabi is Professor at Prince Sultan University, and the Director of Center for Sustainability and Climate, Aide to the President on Ranking and Internationalization, and Chair of the Department of Accounting at Prince Sultan University, Saudi Arabia. He is an Academic Visitor (Senior Member) of St Antony's College, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom.

His article on Saudi Vision 2030 was the most downloaded article in the world after the announcement of Saudi Vision 2030. Based on Stanford University World's Top 2% Scientists 2024, he is RANKED # 1 in Business in Saudi Arabia. Based on ScholarGPS (Highly Ranked Scholars 2024), he is also RANKED # 3 in Accounting in the world.



# Agenda

May 1, 2025  
8.30 am To 3.00 pm

| Time             | Description  |
|------------------|--|
| 8.30 - 9.15 am   | Breakfast & Registration   |
| 9.30 - 9.45 am   | <b>Welcoming Remarks</b><br>by Dr. Ahmed S. Yamani, President PSU  |
| 9.45 - 10.00 am  | <b>Keynote</b><br>by the Dr. Fahad Alshatri, CEO GAC & Chair of the Arab Comp. Net.  |
| 10.00 - 11.00 am | <b>Panel 1: Exploring Competition Opportunities &amp; Challenges in the MENA Region</b><br><b>Moderator:</b> Hugh Hollman (Partner, Baker Botts)<br><b>Panelists:</b><br>.Dr. Hesham Alogeel (Deputy CEO, GAC); .Shaima Bakhsh (GC, .Hassana Investment); .Aurelien Portuese (Professor, GWU); .Ghassan Shawli (Chief Legal & Governance Officer, ACWA Power); .Dr. Saleem Sheikh (SVP Legal Counsel, SISCO Holding) |
| 11.00 - 12.00 pm | <b>Panel 2: The Role of Sustainability in Competitiveness</b><br><b>Moderator:</b> Mohammad Nurunnabi, (Professor, PSU)<br><b>Panelists:</b><br>.HH Princess Abeer S. bin Farhan Al Saud (Founder, Timenschen Institute); .Dr. Nader Almutairi (Corporate Sustainability Officer, Academy of Learning); .Neil Atkinson (SVP, Riyadh Bank)  |
| 12.00 - 1.00 pm  | Lunch & Prayer Break   |
| 1.00 - 2.00 pm   | <b>Panel 3: Navigating the Complexities of Cross-Border Mergers</b><br><b>Moderator:</b> Paul Lugard (Partner, Baker Botts)<br><b>Panelists:</b><br>.Talal Alhogail (M&A Head, GAC); .Chris Idermark Boyd (Senior Counsel, Saudi Aramco); .Dr. Raed Al-Saadouni (GC, ASMO); .Waleed Alghosoon (VP, STC)  |
| 2.00 - 2.20 pm   | <b>Address by Antonio Capobianco (OECD)</b>  |
| 2.20 - 3.00 pm   | Coffee & Networking  |





# Speakers

## Dignitaries



### Dr. Ahmed Al-Yamani

Dr. Ahmed Al-Yamani is the President of Prince Sultan University - the first private, nonprofit university in Saudi Arabia. He recently contributed to the MOE's workshop on new regulations for private colleges and universities and to a post-COVID-19 university readiness forum for the academic year 2021-2022.



### Dr. Fahad Al-Shathri

Dr. Fahad Al-Shathri is CEO of the General Competition Authority, and the Chair of the Arab Competition Network. He holds a PhD in economics from Lehigh University, US, and is considered one of the influential leaders in the economic and financial sector, as he led and directed economic research activities at the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA).



### Antonio Capobianco

Antonio Capobianco is the Deputy Head of the OECD Competition Division. He is responsible for the proceedings of the OECD Competition Committee and for other work streams of the Division. Over the years at the OECD, Mr Capobianco has coordinated a series of OECD projects and work streams and has authored numerous Background Notes of the Secretariat on a wide range of competition law enforcement and policy topics.



# Speakers

## Panel 1: Exploring Competition Opportunities & Challenges in the MENA Region



**Hugh Hollman** is an antitrust partner at Baker Botts LLP with over 20 years of experience as a private practitioner, in-house counsel, and regulator. His extensive background spans the U.S., EU, Middle East, and Africa, providing him with a deep understanding of the regulatory regimes in these regions.



**Hesham Alogeel** serves as the Deputy CEO for Economic Affairs at the General Authority for Competition (GAC). In his current role as Vice President-Economic Affairs at the GAC, he drives economic strategies aimed at enhancing market competition and fostering sustainable growth in Saudi Arabia.



**Shaima Bakhsh** is the General Counsel at Hassana Investment Company, based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Shaima has extensive experience in the legal field, having previously worked at Dentons and Khoshaim & Associates. Her role at Hassana Investment Company involves overseeing legal matters and providing strategic legal advice to support the company's investment activities.



**Ghassan H. Shawli**, ACWA Power's Chief Legal Officer, is a legal veteran with 19 years of experience in senior leadership roles with reputable companies. Prior to joining ACWA Power, Mr. Shawli was the Chief Legal Officer for the Diriyah Gate Development Authority, advising on legal affairs and overseeing the build-up and performance of the department.



**Aurelien Portuese** is a Research Professor and the Founding Director of the Competition & Innovation Lab at the George Washington University. Professor Portuese is also Editor of the Antitrust Law Journal of the American Bar Association.



**Dr. Saleem Sheikh** is Chief Legal Counsel of SISCO Holding with years of experience in corporate law. He published numerous works including eight law books, and multiple international lectures in commercial law.



# Speakers

## Panel 2: The Role of Sustainability in Competitiveness



**Professor Dr. Mohammad Nurunnabi** is the Founding Director of the Center for Sustainability and Climate at Prince Sultan University, Saudi Arabia — the first sustainability think tank in the Kingdom. A globally recognized expert in sustainability and climate policy, he is also an Academic Visitor at the University of Oxford.

His article on Saudi Vision 2030 was the most downloaded article in the world after the announcement of Saudi Vision 2030. Based on Stanford University World's Top 2% Scientists 2024, he is RANKED # 1 in Business in Saudi Arabia. Based on ScholarGPS (Highly Ranked Scholars 2024), he is also RANKED # 3 in Accounting in the world.



**HH Princess Abeer S. bin Farhan Al Saud** is the Chair of The Sustainable Development Association (talga). Abeer works on culturalizing and localizing the sustainable development goals and emphasizing the interplay between culture, sustainability and peace nexus in aiding economic development within communities - all in alignment with Vision 2030 and Saudi development agendas.



**Nader Almutairi** serves as a Science Supervisor at the Agency of Educational Programs, operating under the Ministry of Education. Possessing a Ph.D. in Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies earned from Texas Tech University in the United States, Dr. Nader is recognized for their specialization in the practical applications of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2030.



**Neil Atkinson** is the head of ESG & Sustainability Dept. Neil Atkinson is the Head of Sustainability & ESG at Riyadh Bank, a role he has held since 2023. Based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, he represents Riyadh Bank on the Ministry of Economy and Planning's Corporate Sustainability Policy Development Working Group and is a working member of the Saudi Central Bank's ESG Saudi Banks Advisory Committee.



# Speakers

## Panel 3: Navigating the Complexities of Cross-Border Mergers



**Paul Lugard** is a Brussels-based EU and international competition lawyer and a partner in the Antitrust Practice Group of Baker Botts LLP. His practice focuses on complex merger review proceedings and investigations into alleged anticompetitive business practices. He is also a current member of the International Chamber of Commerce Commission on Competition, having previously served a term as Chair.



**Chris Idermark-Boyd** is Senior Counsel and competition lead at Aramco. Prior to joining Aramco, Chris was a competition lawyer at Kirkland & Ellis in London (2018-2022) where he focused on multi-jurisdictional merger control cases, and at Gilbert + Tobin in Sydney, Australia (2012-2018).



**Talal Alhogail** is the Head of the Mergers and Acquisitions Unit at the General Authority for Competition (GAC) in Saudi Arabia. With an extensive background in economics and finance, Talal oversees transactions and compliance with Saudi Arabia's merger control requirements. Under his leadership, GAC has made significant decisions impacting market competition, including the issuance of a rejection certificate with respect to the completion of Delivery Hero's acquisition of Chefz.



**Raed Al-Saadouni** is currently a General Counsel at ASMO. Raed was awarded the prestigious Global General Counsel of the Year 2023 by LEXOLOGY in association with the Associate of Corporate Counsels (ACC) and the Middle East General Counsel of the Year, by the IAIR Leadership Awards.



**Mr. Waleed Alghosoon** is currently Vice President Legal Affairs at STC. Mr. Alghosoon has a masters degree in International Commercial Law, an Executive MBA, and several professional certificates in multiple fields. In addition to his academic achievements, he brings many years of job-related experience coupled with leadership roles.