

China to Consolidate Antitrust Powers in Single Agency

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After a decade of enforcing different aspects of its antitrust laws through three separate bodies, China is expected to consolidate antitrust authority into a single agency as part of a broader reorganization of government ministries. The move could have significant repercussions for private parties, following long-standing reports of concerns about staffing shortages and delays in Chinese merger review. Questions have also been raised about the comparative importance of national economic interests and competition principles in agency decision-making. (China's antitrust law requires the agencies to consider both competition principles and Chinese economic development.) The expected consolidation into a single agency could potentially enable Chinese authorities to complete investigations more quickly, while aligning their decisions more closely with the country's industrial policy goals.

If you have any questions regarding the matters covered in this publication, please reach out to any of the lawyers listed below or your usual Davis Polk contact.

Arthur J. Burke

+1 212 450 4352
+1 650 752 2005
arthur.burke@davispolk.com

Arthur F. Golden

+1 212 450 4388
arthur.golden@davispolk.com

Ronan P. Harty

+1 212 450 4870
ronan.harty@davispolk.com

Howard Shelanski

+1 202 962 7060
howard.shelanski@davispolk.com

Miranda So

+852 2533 3373
miranda.so@davispolk.com

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