

CCP maintains its rating despite dwindling human resources

ISLAMABAD: Despite dwindling human resources, the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has maintained its rating of two and a half stars out of five and its performance has been termed consistent by the Global Competition Review (GCR) in the 14th annual survey of the world's leading competition authorities.

GCR welcoming the appointment of Dr. Joseph Wilson as Chairman CCP stated: "Highly respected by the Pakistani competition bar and in the wider antitrust community, Dr. Wilson is seen as a very safe pair of hands under whom the CCP will continue on its path to greater and more effective enforcement." GCR further stated that Dr. Wilson's first few months in charge have been characterized by the CCP's focus on advocacy and policy issues. The Commission is in regular dialogue with the government and sector regulators about the importance of considering competition law when drafting new regulations.

GCR has termed CCP a maturing authority, which is still facing the external challenges of operating in a tough environment, but has stuck to its mandate and continues to build a reputation of being taken speciously both within Pakistan and abroad. It stated that CCP continues to remain active in the face of significant resource cut and staff reduction. "While its budget has not changed, CCP cut staff from 147

in 2012 to 125 in 2013. For such a small authority, that represents a savage bite out of its resources."

While discussing CCP's performance, GCR highlighted some significant cases handled by CCP over the past year. CCP's action against 14 Long Distance and International (LDI) operators, for price fixing and market allocation, in the International Clearing House (ICH) case led to the imposition of a record fines of Rs9 billion. In cases regarding abuse of dominance by businesses, 2013 was a record year with 15 cases—the highest number of cases to date underway with CCP launching 12 new investigations in the year alone. In a case regarding abuse of dominance by urea manufacturers, CCP charged fines of Rs8.64 billion.

GCR has quoted lawyers as saying that these record breaking fines in large and powerful sectors such as telecoms and chemicals illustrates the CCP's determination to stand up to all businesses regardless of their size or influence.

Recent advocacy efforts include issuance of a Policy Note to the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) to reform its distribution of flare gas licenses, and another Policy Note to the Government recommending the removal of a capacity tax in the beverage industry, saying it was greatly damaging competition.

GCR welcomed Dr. Wilson's priorities for CCP including the revision of regulations, enhancing

the strength of enforcement staff, working towards the financial and administrative independence of the Commission, active advocacy both with public and private sector, robust law enforcement and improving the staff's technical expertise.

While discussing the challenges faced by CCP, GCR said that a factor that hindered the effective functioning of CCP was the disposal of cases in the courts. Whereas the CCP adjudicated on cases in an expeditious manner, appeals before courts prolong endlessly. Currently more than 200 CCP cases are pending in various courts. Competition Appellate Tribunal which would have ensured the timely disposal of cases has remained dysfunctional due to non-appointment of judges.

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STAMP OF APPROVAL

CCP's performance consistent: GCR

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GCR maintains CCP rating



OUR STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

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Staff Report

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مسابقتی کمیشن آف پاکستان کی بہترین کارکردگی، بین الاقوامی سطح پر ستائش

کارکردگی میں جو اقدامات نمایاں قرار دیے گئے ان میں 14 ٹیلی کام آپریٹرز کے خلاف آئی سی اے کیس جس میں سی سی پی نے 19 ارب روپے کا جرمانہ عائد کیا۔ 2013 میں سی سی پی نے طاقت کے غلط استعمال کے ضمن میں آنے والے 15 کیسز کی سماعت کی یہ سی سی پی کے لئے ایک ریکارڈ ہے۔ ان میں نمایاں دو یورپیا کمپنیز یورپیا کمپنیز کے خلاف کیس ہیں جس میں 8.64 ارب روپے جرمانہ عائد کیا گیا۔ سی سی پی نے 2013 میں 54 درخواستیں برائے ادغام (Merger) کی نظر ثانی کی۔ سی سی پی نے متعدد وید ویسی اقدامات کیے جن کا مقصد حکومت اور کاروباری شعبے کو مسابقتی معاملات سے متعارف کرانا تھا۔ اس ضمن میں سالانہ بین الاقوامی کانفرنس کا انعقاد بھی شامل ہے۔ جن میں 20 سے زائد ممالک کے نمائندوں نے شرکت کی۔ ایڈووکیسی اقدامات میں پالیسی نوٹ کا اجراء بھی ہے سی سی پی نے اوگرا کو فلپیر کیس کے لائسنس کا اجراء اور کوپسی کیس شامل ہے۔ سی سی پی کی قابل اثر کارکردگی کی راہ میں حائل رکاوٹ عدالتوں میں زیر التوا مقدمات ہیں۔ قس وقت ایسے کیسز کی تعداد 200 ہے۔ مسابقتی ٹریبیونل جو کیسز کی بروقت فیصلے کو یقینی بنا سکتا ہے اس وقت ججز کی تقرری نہ ہونے کے باعث غیر فعال ہے۔

اسلام آباد (رٹاف رپورٹر) مسابقتی کمیشن آف پاکستان (سی سی پی) اپنی عمدہ کارکردگی کو تسلسل کے ساتھ برقرار رکھنے میں کامیاب رہا اور اس کی اچھی کارکردگی کی بنا پر سی سی پی نے ریٹنگ ایسٹار 2.5/5 دی ہے۔ یہ سی سی پی آر ریٹنگ کے تحت منعقدہ دنیا کے معروف ترین مسابقتی ایجنسیوں کے چودہویں سالانہ جائزے میں دی گئی۔ سی سی پی آر عالمی شہرت یافتہ مسابقتی قانون کا جرنل ہے۔ ہر سال یہ دنیا کی مسابقتی ایجنسیوں کی کارکردگی کا جائزہ لیتا ہے۔ اس سال پاکستان کا مقابلہ دنیا کی 35 مسابقتی ایجنسیوں کے ساتھ تھا۔ سی سی پی آر کے مطابق سی سی پی کے چیئرمین ڈاکٹر جوزف ولسن بین الاقوامی شہرت کے حامل ہیں۔ مسابقتی قانون کے موثر نفاذ میں ڈاکٹر جوزف ولسن کلیدی کردار ادا کر سکتے ہیں ڈاکٹر جوزف ولسن کی ترجیحات میں سی سی پی کے قواعد کی نظر ثانی، اندرونی معاملات میں جانچ پڑتال اور پیشہ ورانہ مہارت رکھنے والے پروفیشنلز کی ترقی شامل ہے۔ ڈاکٹر جوزف ولسن سی سی پی کے مالیاتی اور انتظامی امور کی آزادی کے لئے کوشاں ہیں۔ ڈاکٹر جوزف ولسن کی رائے میں قومی اور بین الاقوامی برنسز کے مابین برابری کی سطح پر مقابلہ سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ دیتا ہے۔ سی سی پی آر میں سی سی پی کی