



October 21, 2019.

Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore
45 Maxwell Road
#09-01, The URA Centre
Singapore 069118
Attention: Ms. Davina Wong, Senior Assistant Director
(Consumer Protection)

Email: cccs_feedback@cccs.gov.sg

Ref. Comments on the draft Guidelines

Dear Sirs,

We have pleasure in enclosing a submission that has been prepared by members¹ of the Unilateral Conduct Working Group of the Antitrust Committee of the International Bar Association on the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore's "CCCS Draft Guidelines on Price Transparency" ("Draft Guidelines").

The Working Group welcomes the opportunity to respond to the most relevant issues raised by the Draft Guidelines and to highlight important points for further reconsideration.

In particular, the Working Group has responded to the Draft Guidelines from a competition and antitrust perspective. The Working Group respectfully submits that there should be safeguards to ensure that competition policy and consumer protection policy in Singapore do not have a bias towards consumers at the expense of total welfare or businesses; this is in line with the total welfare approach and *caveat emptor* approach that is adopted by Singapore's competition and consumer protection regimes respectively.

¹ Daren Shiau Vee Lung (Allen & Gledhill), and Co-Chair of the Working Group Andrew Ward (Cuatrecasas).

The Working Group highlights that there may be trade-offs between competition policy and consumer protection, and that intra-agency cooperation would be necessary to manage these trade-offs. The Working Group suggests that demand-side remedies be explored for competition enforcement where appropriate. The Working Group also agrees with the CCCS's current approach of monitoring practices identified in the Market Study Report on Online Travel Booking Sector in Singapore ("Market Study"), and have set out a few observations on the practices identified in the Market Study for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Marc Reysen
Co-Chair Antitrust Committee

Elizabeth Morony
Co-Chair Antitrust Committee