

Program

Day 1 - 27th august 2025

At the University of New Caledonia – Lecture Hall 400

Scientific Direction

Ms Laïsa ROI – Economist, Senior Lecturer in Economic Sciences, University of New Caledonia

Mr Gordon RONDEL-FRAJDER – Case Handler, Competition Authority of New Caledonia

Opening at 4:00 PM

Introduction :

Welcome speeches and introductory remarks : New Caledonian Competition Authority (NCCA), University of Caledonia (UNC)

Roundtable 1 - Defining the Concepts, Presenting the Issues and Challenges of the Conference

Moderator : Ms Pascale DECHAMPS, Economist, Member of the Foresight Committee of the NCCA

Speakers :

Mr Benoît COEURÉ : Chair of the OECD Competition Committee, President of the French Competition Authority (*video conference*)

Ms Mia MIKIC : Trade Economist, Lecturer and researcher at the University of Waikato, former Director of the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) (*video conference*)

Ms Roberta PIERMARTINI: Economist, Chief of Section in the Economic Research and Statistics Division of the World Trade Organization (WTO) (*video conference*)

Ms Laïsa ROI : Economist, Academic and Researcher – University of New Caledonia

Cocktail at 6:30 PM

Day 2 - 28th august 2025

At the University of New Caledonia – Lecture Hall 400

8:00 AM - Welcome coffee and breakfast

Morning session

8:30 am : Roundtable 2 - Regional Economic Integration as a vector for the Competitiveness and Cooperation of Small Island Economies

Moderator : Ms Laïsa ROI - Economist, Academic and Researcher – University of New Caledonia

Speakers / Intervenants :

Dr Clarence HENRY, Head (Acting), Regional Integration, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) (*video conference*)

Mr Simon HESS, Counsellor, Committee on Trade and Development WTO (*video conference*)

Mr Roy LAGOLAGO, Head of Secretariat for the PACER Plus Implementation Unit and Labour Mobility (PPIU)

Dr Keshmeer MAKUN, Professor of Economics at the University of the South Pacific. Member of the college of the Fiji Competition and Consumer Commission (*video conference*)

Key topics :

The economic benefits and necessity of regional integration for Small Island Economies (SIE) :

- The structural characteristics of SIE make openness essential (small markets, transaction costs, and economies of scale).
- What are the options for opening up a SIE? What are the implementation modalities? Case studies (Caribbean, Pacific : PICTA/PACER+).
- How to manage developmental differences between countries ?
- The articulation of regional agreements between SIE and larger integration frameworks (NAFTA/ASEAN/CER NZ-AUS) and the positioning of Thirteen Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) and ORs.

10:00 am Coffee break

10:30 am - Roundtable 3 - Designing and Implementing Competition Law in a Regionalized Ecosystem

Moderator : Ms Pascale DECHAMPS, Economist, Member of the Foresight Committee of the NCCA

Speakers :

Mr Grant CHAMBERLAIN, *Head of Cartels NZCC (Commerce commission New Zealand) (video conference)*

Mr Barry HEADLEY, *Senior Economist, CARICOM Competition Commission (video conference)*

Ms Clare O'REILLY, *Executive General Manager, Specialist Advice and Services Division, ACCC (Australian Competition & Consumer Commission) (video conference)*

Mrs Nivia RAMSUNDAR, *Executive Director, CARICOM Competition Commission (The Caribbean Community) (video conference)*

Key issues :

The impact of regional integration on competition policy and enforcement :

- Developing appropriate competition regulations tailored to insular economies (efficiency trade-offs).
- Cooperation between regulatory authorities.
- Harmonization of regional competition policies and their adaptation to SIE realities.

Common tools for regulating competition within integration zones and addressing anti-competitive practices (cross-border mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, regional cartels and agreements).

- The PINCCER network: challenges and prospects.

End: 12:00 PM - Lunch break

Afternoon Session

01:30 pm - Roundtable 4 - Reducing Economic Dependence and Promoting Diversification in Small Island Economies: Tensions Between Industrial Policy and Competition

Moderator : Pascale DECHAMPS, Economist, Member of the Foresight Committee of the NCCA

Speakers :

Mr Steven BOND-SMITH, *Economist, Assistant Professor, University of Hawaii (video conference)*

Mr Philippe JEAN-PIERRE, *Professor of Economics, University of Réunion (video conference)*

Mr Noah Patrick KOUBACK, *Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Vanuatu (video conference)*

Mr Sébastien MATHOURAPARSAD, *Professor of Economics, Head of the Department of Economics and Management at the University of the French Antilles and Guiana*

Key topics :

- What diversification strategies for a SIE?
- Risks of economic dependence (on a specific sector or on transfers) and exposure to external shocks.
- Practical implementation of diversification (identification of comparative advantages, selection of industrial policies, and support mechanisms for development, investment, and exports in compliance with WTO rules)
- Tensions between industrial policy (supporting national champions for export) and competition / Impact of FDI on competition dynamics.

3:00 pm Coffee break

3:00 pm - Roundtable 5 - Seeking the Right Balance Between Protectionism and Competition

Moderator : Ms Pascale DECHAMPS, Economist, Member of the Foresight Committee of the NCCA
Video introduction by Mr. Olivier Guersent, Director-General for Competition at the European Commission

Speakers :

Mr Simon HESS, Counsellor, Committee on Trade and Development WTO (*video conference*)

Mr Jean-François HOARAU, President of the University of Réunion

Mr Noah Patrick KOUBACK, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Vanuatu (*video conference*)

Mr Frédéric MARTY, Economist, Researcher at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) (*video conference*)

Mr Sébastien MATHOURAPARSAD, Professor of Economics, Head of the Department of Economics and Management at the University of the French Antilles and Guiana

Mr Alastair SUTTON, Lawyer, former European Union official, diplomat, and trade negotiator (*video conference*)

Key topics :

- The necessity of maintaining a level of protectionism.
- Typology of protectionist instruments (tariff and non-tariff defensive measures) / trade policy and WTO compatibility (dumping, arbitration).
- The case of nascent industries.
- The issue of food self-sufficiency.
- Case study on a non-tariff protection measure.
- The effects of excessive protectionism on competition and consumers.

End: 5:00 PM

Day 3 - 29th august

At the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New Caledonia

8:00 am - Coffee welcome

8:30 am - Practical Workshops : Viewpoint of regional economic operators

Workshop 1 - Competition, Competitiveness and Food Self-Sufficiency in New Caledonia

- Participants: New Caledonia Chamber of Agriculture and Fisheries, New Caledonia Rural Agency, Directorate of Veterinary and Rural Affairs (DAVAR)
- Participants in the meat, tuna, honey, and cocoa sectors...

Key topics :

- Structuring producers' supply : regulating volumes, prices, and quality, managing shortages, grouping producers together, structuring interprofessional organizations, facilitating access to short supply chains
- Functioning and efficiency of import restriction regulations (streamlining the management of import quotas), Prioritization of aid payments
- Facilitating the processing of agricultural products (contractualization of commercial relations)
- Export strategy for emerging and competitive sectors
- Feedback on competitive sectors, needs and strategy of promising sectors

Workshop 2 - Track, Rethink, and Secure Supply and Export Chains

Stakeholders in the supply chain, transport, procurement, and export

Key topics :

Import

- Strategy for optimizing and reducing approach costs (freight pricing, equalization, etc.)
- Regional reorientation of sources of supply for inputs and FMCG ?
- Problems encountered in terms of standards (e.g., mandatory labeling in French, etc.) and taxation

Export

- Identification of factors for improving the competitiveness of production and processing (strategy for increasing added value, capital productivity gains, etc.)
- Support mechanisms for strategic sectors with export potential
- Optimization and massification of flows (logistics pooling, etc.)

Closing speech by Mr. Christopher GYGES, Member of the Government of New Caledonia in charge of Economic Affairs

End: 12:30 PM