

PROPOSAL FOR: COMPETITION POLICY FOR EMERGING ECONOMIES: WHEN
AND HOW?

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COMPETITION POLICIES FOR EMERGING ECONOMIES: LESSON FROM PAKISTAN
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The question whether and when developing countries and emerging economies should introduce competition policy and law in the panoply of economic tools seems archaic. It is similar to saying let's play hockey but we will decide the rules as the game progress. With the exception of a scenario when there is a complete command and control, how will the game progress at the first place? An economy which adheres to the principles of laissez faire & market forces ought to have competition regime in place. Economies transitioning from command & control to free market play must have competition law on the books even before opening up of the market. The rules must be decided first before the game starts!

The question is how to implement the rules? How to lay foundation for an effective competition agency and regime? The paper attempts to bring-to fore the lessons I have learnt being a founding member of the newly founded (in November 2007) Competition Commission of Pakistan. The paper will focus on the institutional design of commission, as well as practical challenges faces in implementing the law, for example: lack of officers trained in competition law or economics, judicial system inhibiting enforcement, lack of competition culture, among other.