



# NEWSLETTER

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## Weekly Competition Law News

By Lifang & Partners

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## Domestic News

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### SAMR Releases Antitrust Enforcement Data for 2019

On 20 February 2020, the website of the *China Market Regulation News* published an article by Mr. Wu Zhenguo, the Director-General of the Anti-Monopoly Bureau of China's State Administration for Market Regulation ("SAMR"), *Promote Fair Competition and Serve Reform Development: The Overview of Antitrust Work of 2019*. According to the article, in 2019, a total of 103 antitrust investigations were launched, and 44 of them were closed with a total fine of 320m. Specifically, formal investigations were launched in 28 monopoly agreement cases, 15 abuse of dominance cases, 24 administrative monopoly cases, and 36 gun-jumping cases. In 2019, a total of 503 merger filings cases were received, 462 were docketed, and 465 were closed. ([More](#))

## Overseas News

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### Apple and Google Are Reportedly Mulling Big Changes Amid Antitrust Scrutiny

On 20 February 2020, *Vox* reported that United States antitrust investigations into Big Tech hadn't yet concluded, but they already seem to be making an impact. *Bloomberg* reported on the same day that Apple was considering allowing iPhone users the ability to make third-party apps such as Chrome and Gmail the default on their phones. And earlier this month, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Google executives were informally discussing whether they should consider spinning off their advertising-technology unit as regulators examine the company's dominance in online advertising and its dealings with publishers. ([More](#))

### CNMC Accepts Proposed Commitments by Adidas Spain

On 18 February 2020, the Spanish National Commission of Markets and Competition ("CNMC") announced that it had accepted commitments to ending the case initiated against Adidas Spain for alleged conduct prohibited by law, in the Spanish retail market for clothing and footwear. Adidas offered remedies intended to eliminate the competition problems identified, including deleting the post-contractual non-competition clause included in some franchise agreements, and eliminating the ban on cross-sales between distributors in general and between franchisees in particular, etc. ([More](#))

### EU to Look Closer at Smaller Acquisitions Made By Big Tech

On 18 February 2020, *CNBC* reported that the European Commission would look into smaller acquisitions made by big technology giants after a "shopping spree" in recent years by American firms. The continent had been a hot bed of technology acquisitions by major US firms over the last decade, particularly in the area of artificial intelligence. High-profile purchases like the USD 8.5bn Microsoft paid for Skype in 2011 or the USD 19bn Facebook bought WhatsApp for in 2014 often made the headlines, but there were dozens of other smaller acquisitions that had happened. Last year for example, Apple bought Spectral Edge for an undisclosed sum. Twitter meanwhile acquired Fabula AI. ([More](#))

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