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Antitrust & Competition

Decision of Vietnam Competition Council on GrabTaxi – Uber's deal

No violation to the Law on Competition

On 11 June 2019, the Viet Nam Competition Council ("VCC") conducted a closed hearing regarding the alleged economic concentration activity of Grab Taxi Company Limited ("GrabTaxi") and Uber Viet Nam Limited ("Uber Vietnam") (Competition Case No. 18 KX HTC 01).

On 17 June 2019, VCC announced Decision No. 26/QD-HDXL, in which VCC determined that the purchase, transfer and receipt of obligations between GrabTaxi and Uber Vietnam did not constitute an act of economic concentration under the Law on Competition.

Absence of an act of economic concentration

In its assessment, VCC stated that the asset transfer between GrabTaxi and Uber Vietnam did not result in GrabTaxi holding any managerial positions and voting rights in any governing bodies of Uber Vietnam. Accordingly, it did not meet the condition of an "acquisition" to which an economic concentration applies under the Law on Competition (i.e., where the acquiring enterprise controls sufficient voting rights in the acquired enterprise).

In addition, as Uber Vietnam did not either have the relevant transportation and call centre service business, or directly manage the Uber application, VCC determined that the transaction did not directly relate to GrabTaxi's control or governance over the business operations of Uber Vietnam.

In the absence of an act of economic concentration, VCC viewed it was unnecessary to further assess the relevant market and combined market share of the two enterprises.

Accordingly, VCC rejected the request of the investigation agency to apply sanctions and impose remedial measures against GrabTaxi and Uber Vietnam in relation to their transaction.

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Contacts



Tran Xuan Chi Anh
Partner

D+84 28 3821 2673
F+84 28 3821 2685
anh.tran@rajahtannlct.com

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Our Regional Contacts

RAJAH & TANN | Singapore

Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

T +65 6535 3600 F +65 6225 9630 sg.rajahtannasia.com

R&T SOK & HENG | Cambodia

R&T Sok & Heng Law Office

T +855 23 963 112 / 113 F +855 23 963 116 kh.rajahtannasia.com

RAJAH & TANN 立杰上海

SHANGHAI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE | China

Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP Shanghai Representative Office

T +86 21 6120 8818 F +86 21 6120 8820 cn.rajahtannasia.com

ASSEGAF HAMZAH & PARTNERS | Indonesia

Assegaf Hamzah & Partners

Jakarta Office

T +62 21 2555 7800 F +62 21 2555 7899

Surabaya Office

T +62 31 5116 4550 F +62 31 5116 4560 www.ahp.co.id

RAJAH & TANN | Lao PDR

Rajah & Tann (Laos) Sole Co., Ltd.

T +856 21 454 239 F +856 21 285 261 la.rajahtannasia.com CHRISTOPHER & LEE ONG | Malaysia

Christopher & Lee Ong

T +60 3 2273 1919 F +60 3 2273 8310 www.christopherleeong.com

RAJAH & TANN NK LEGAL | Myanmar

Rajah & Tann NK Legal Myanmar Company Limited

T +95 9 7304 0763 / +95 1 9345 343 / +95 1 9345 346 F +95 1 9345 348 mm.rajahtannasia.com

mm.rajamannasia.com

GATMAYTAN YAP PATACSIL
GUTIERREZ & PROTACIO (C&G LAW) | *Philippines*

Gatmaytan Yap Patacsil Gutierrez & Protacio (C&G Law)

T +632 894 0377 to 79 / +632 894 4931 to 32 / +632 552 1977 F +632 552 1978

www.cagatlaw.com

RAJAH & TANN | Thailand

R&T Asia (Thailand) Limited

T +66 2 656 1991 F +66 2 656 0833 th.rajahtannasia.com

RAJAH & TANN LCT LAWYERS | Vietnam

Rajah & Tann LCT Lawyers

Ho Chi Minh City Office

T +84 28 3821 2382 / +84 28 3821 2673

F +84 28 3520 8206

Hanoi Office

T +84 24 3267 6127 F +84 24 3267 6128 www.rajahtannlct.com

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