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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- TABLE OF CONTENTS -- Foreword -- Abstract -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations and Acronyms -- Executive Summary -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Objectives and Instruments of Competition Law -- 3. Competition, Trade and Emerging Economies -- Competition and Trade -- Competition and Developing Economies -- 4. Competition Law and Infrastructure Industries -- 5. Rules of Competition in the Association and Cooperation Agreements -- Competition Rules in the Agreements Concluded with the Mediterranean Partners -- The Competition Rules in the New Euromed Agreements -- The Effectiveness of the Competition Rules of the Association Agreements -- The Implementation by the Council of Association -- The Degree of Protection Enjoyed by Individuals -- The Way Ahead -- 6. Competition Rules and the Accession Process -- The Obligations Imposed to Candidate Countries in the Competition Field -- The Mechanisms of Accompaniment and Evaluation in the Competition Law Field -- 7. Domestic Competition Regimes in the Mediterranean Partners -- State of Adoption of Domestic Competition Laws in the Mediterranean Partners -- Content of Domestic

Competition Laws -- 8. Implementation and Enforcement of Domestic Competition Laws -- Implementation and Enforcement in the Candidate Countries -- Implementation and Enforcement in Israel -- Implementation and Enforcement in the Maghreb Countries -- 9. A Convergence of Domestic Competition Rules -- What is Convergence? -- Rationales for Convergence -- The Need for Cost/Benefit Analysis -- The Need for a Prudent Approach -- The Need to Establish Priorities and Develop an Enforcement Agenda -- Alternatives to Convergence Around EC rules -- 10. Summary and Policy Proposals -- References -- BOXES -- 1.1 The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership -- 3.1 The Mediterranean Region's Failure to Integrate the Global Economy. 3.2 Poor Cooperation between Developing Countries with Foreign Competition Authorities in Competition Law Enforcement -- 3.3 Examples of Successful Applications of Competition Rules in Developing Countries -- 4.1 Examples of Successful Application of Competition Rules in the Telecommunication Sector -- 5.1 Examples of Regional Trade Agreements Comprising Competition Rules -- 5.2 Enforcement of Competition Rules in the EEA -- 7.1 Implications of Enlargement for the MPs -- 7.2 The Turkish Competition Authority -- 7.3 The COMESA Draft Competition Regulations -- 8.1 The Turkish Competition Authority Ruling on GSM Operators -- 8.2 Enforcement of Antitrust Rules in Israel-Example of a Significant Cartel Case -- 9.1 The New Neighborhood Policy -- 10.1 Possible Initiatives under a Technical Assistance Program for Competition Policy -- TABLES -- 4.1 Telecommunication Indicators in a Sample of 5 Mediterranean Partners -- 4.2 State of Completion of the Liberalization of Telecommunications in the Mediterranean Partners -- 4.3 Bodies in Charge of the Regulation of the Telecommunications Sector in Southern Mediterranean Countries -- 7.1 Competition Law in the MEDA Countries -- 7.2 Competition Authorities in the MEDA Countries -- 8.1 Involvement of the Israeli Antitrust Authority (IAA) in the Promotion of Competitive Reforms and Competition Advocacy -- 8.2 Cases and Consultations Referred to the Competition Council -- 8.3 Distribution of Cases Filed According to the Nature of the Plaintiff -- 8.4 Distribution of Cases Filed by Economic Activity -- 8.5 Decisions Issued by the Council -- 8.6 Consultations of the Competition Council -- 8.7 An Analysis of the Domestic Competition Laws of the Mediterranean Partners -- 9.1 Overview of Transnational Agreements on Competition Law Enforcement. 9.2 Intensity of International Cooperation in the Field of Competition Law Enforcement -- 9.3 Overview of Intra-regional Trade in the Mediterranean Partners.

## Sommario/riassunto

Competition Law and Regional Economic Integration is part of the World Bank Working Paper series. These papers are published to communicate the results of the Bank's ongoing research and to stimulate public discussion. Dealing with the interface between competition law and economic integration in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, this study seeks to map out key policy issues that should be addressed for successfully implementing or strengthening competition law regimes in Mediterranean Partner countries. This regional study is prepared by the joint World Bank - European Commission Programme on Private Participation in Mediterranean Infrastructure (PPMI).; This study argues that adoption and strengthening of a competition law regime is a key component of the regulatory reforms required to allow a market economy in the Mediterranean region. It also argues that the competition rules inserted in the Association Agreements signed between the European Union and the Mediterranean Partners currently fail to provide adequate protection against anticompetitive practices affecting trade between these blocks.

Moreover, the competition law regimes adopted by the Partners are generally poorly enforced with the consequence that many domestic anticompetitive practices remain unchallenged. In addition, this study also addresses the issue of regulatory convergence between the European Union and the Partners in the field of competition law, arguing that while such convergence would bring a series of benefits to both the European Union and the Partners, it would also involve costs. In its final part, this study proposes a series of steps that could be taken by the European Union and the Partners to strengthen competition policy in the Mediterranean region, including proposals for technical assistance in the field of competition law.

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