



Office of Commissioner
Alvaro M. Bedoya

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

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STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ALVARO M. BEDOYA, JOINT

reports of companies appearing to use their public statements as invitations to their competitors to collude in industries as diverse as mobile phone networks,² soft drinks,³ and meat packing.⁴ These allegations involve the kind of conduct that eats away at family budgets and lays the ground for worse to follow. This is the kind of competition harm that warrants fast and thorough investigation by Bureau of Competition staff and strong enforcement action by the Commission.

A second resolution announced today marks an expansion of the merger omnibus to cover even those mergers that companies do not report to the antitrust agencies under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act. The Commission's 6(b) study on non-HSR reported acquisitions by Alphabet/Google, Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Microsoft highlighted how some of the largest firms in our economy have made hundreds of acquisitions that were not reported to the FTC or DOJ.⁵ Firms can also deliberately structure their deals to sidestep the HSR reporting thresholds; this use of "avoidance devices" actively subverts the agencies' ~~work~~ enforcement action
