

Activities implemented in 2021

UNCTAD

In cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations in Geneva, in July 2021, representatives of the Commission participated in a virtual meeting and discussions held on the occasion of the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts in the Field of Competition Law and Policy, in a session entitled: "International experiences and best practices in competition law enforcement against cross-border cartels"

During the year, representatives of the Commission attended several conferences/webinars organized by or in cooperation with UNCTAD, such as:

- Webinar on "Global Policy Dialogue - Post-COVID-19 resurgence of MSMEs and competition policy", and
- University of Amsterdam conference on the links between economic inequality and competition law.

International Competition Network

During 2021, representatives of the Commission participated in numerous conferences, webinars and virtual workshops of the ICN:

- International Competition Network (ICN) Virtual Annual Conference;
- Webinar "In the Spotlight Coscelli/Mundt – Leading your agency through change"
- Webinar of the International Competition Network on the Effectiveness of Competition Authorities (ICN AEWG) on "Digitalization, Innovation and Agency Effectiveness";
- ICN AEWG webinar for economists (Market Studies: Economist's Perspective);
- Kickoff Call" for the new ICN Year - Hear from the ICN Working Groups on New Work Product and How to Get Involved in this Year's Projects
- A four-week ICN seminar/workshop that involved working in groups with colleagues from competition authorities from around the world, to jointly solve a practical problem (virtual ICN Promotion & Implementation workshop);
- ICN's two-day virtual workshop on cartels;
- ICN's two-day virtual workshop on concentrations;

Also, the representatives of the Commission made their contribution to the projects of this network, by submitting answers to complex questionnaires of ICN for the needs of the "Third Decade of ICN" project, then, the project of the ICN working group for the effectiveness of competition protection authorities called "Prioritization Project and initiation of cases", as well as the project of the ICN working group on concentration control related to joint ventures and the procedure for notification and assessment of concentrations.

In the course of 2021, the circle of representatives of the Commission in various working groups of ICN has been expanded: in addition to working groups in the field of concentrations, efficiency in

the work of competition protection bodies and representation of competition protection, it is now also a working group for the so-called unilateral conduct.

OECD and the Regional Center for Competition (OECD-GvH RCC)

Representatives of the Commission participated in the following conferences, workshops and webinars, both organized by the OECD and the Regional Center for Competition in Budapest:

- The 20th annual conference of the Global Competition Forum of the OECD, on the topics of economic analysis and evidence in cases of abuse, as well as neutrality in the application of competition law;
- OECD Workshop on Regulatory Barriers to Competition
- RCC webinar - „Tackling bid rigging in public procurement “
- Joint seminar of RCC and FAS RUSSIA on "Competition Law and Intellectual Property Law";
- RCC seminar on the topic of Carrying out Effective Antitrust Investigations;
- RCC webinar on the topic of market studies: „Market Studies: A Key Driver for Competition Advocacy and Enforcement”.

Within the virtual even of the 20th Global Forum on Competition, held in December 2021, which brings together representatives of competition protection bodies and high-ranking officials of other institutions from around the world, the Expert Service of the Commission submitted a written contribution on the topic "Neutrality in the application of competition law".

In addition to the above, the Commission played a very active role in the implementation of the OECD project entitled "Review of the Competitiveness of Southeast Europe" and thus contributed to its successful completion.

During 2021, the Commission also submitted feedback on the use of various OECD products, as well as feedback regarding the report of this organization on the profile of Serbia.

Finally, representatives of the Commission participated in a virtual meeting on the occasion of the launch of the new OECD project "Fair market conditions for competition in six OECD partner countries".

When it comes to the work of the RCC, in addition to participating in webinars and seminars (overview given above), the Expert Service of the Commission contributed to the Newsletter of the RCC on selected topics in the field of competition law and policy:

- „Tackling bid rigging in Serbia “and
- „Abuse of Dominance In Digital Markets – The Serbian Experience “,

as well as the videos of this regional center that concerned the rigging of public bids in the public procurement procedure, neutrality in the application of competition law and the assumption of obligations, through the provision of translation into the Serbian language.

Energy community

During 2021, the Commission, through its representative who is a member of the Delegation for Negotiations, participated in several virtual meetings held with representatives of the Ministry of Mining and Energy, the Energy Community and the European Commission, in the context of the process of amendments to the Treaty on the Establishment of the Energy Community. Also, the Commission promptly expressed its views on draft acts and proposed responses to the Secretariat of the Energy Community and the General Directorate of the European Commission for Energy, in accordance with the Ministry's requirements.

Regarding the proposal of a platform for the participation of representatives of the Republic of Serbia at the informal meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community on July 2, 2021, prepared by the Ministry, the Commission issued an opinion.

Finally, in addition to contributing to the process of amending the Agreement, the Commission continued to provide comments and remarks on the reports of the Energy Community, such as the Report on the Implementation of Soft Measures, annual Work Reports, etc.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Virtual Annual Conference of the German Competition Authority;
- Seminars of the Academic Society for Competition Law SEE - ASCOLA on various topics related to protection and competition policy, one of which was on the topic "Policy report priority setting in EU and national competition law enforcement - focus on Eastern Europe", and
- Florence Competition Autumn Conference.

The Commission was visited by the ambassador of Poland in Belgrade, HE Rafal Perl, and representatives of the Office for Competition and Consumer Protection of the Republic of Poland, namely the president of this Office, Tomasz Chróstny, with associates, who represents the central figure of this state administration body, with associates. The subject of the visit was the exchange of knowledge and experience, possible areas of mutual cooperation between the two bodies for the protection of competition, as well as the presentation of a project in the field of consumer protection, the implementation of which in the Republic of Serbia will be engaged by a Polish body in the coming period.

Also, in accordance with a long and very successful tradition, the representative of the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Tatsuro Masuda, holding the position of First Secretary of the Embassy, visited the Commission. The topic of the discussion was an overview of the situation in the field of competition protection in the Republic of Serbia, the actions of the Commission in the most important segments of its work, as well as the presentation of JICA's priorities in the future financing of various programs in the Republic of Serbia.

Colleague Ivana Rakić received the international award "The 2021 Antitrust Writing Award (Reader's Choice)" for the best academic paper in the field of competition law, according to readers' votes, on the topic "Monopolization Standards in US Competition Law: Evolution and Evaluation", which was previously published in the journal "Annals (Anali)" published by the Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade.