

## **International cooperation in 2020**

### **UNCTAD**

The Commission actively and continuously participated in the development of the document on the guiding principles and procedures according to Section F of the UN Set of Principles and Rules on Competition, on the topic of the fight against cross-border cartels. In July 2020, representatives of the Commission for the Protection of Competition, in cooperation with the Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations in Geneva, participated in the online meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts in the Field of Competition Law and Policy, as well as in the UNCTAD Annual Conference.

### **International Competition Network**

The commission took part in the virtual annual ICN conference, held through the *online* platform (*Virtual Annual Conference*), as well as in the webinar on the topic "*Enforcement Priorities in Action: Agency Effectiveness Perspective*".

Employees of the Commission became members of ICN working groups in the field of concentrations, efficiency of management of competition protection bodies and promotion of competition protection.

An addendum was prepared for the purposes of drafting the "ICN Framework on Competition Agency Procedures" (*Section 3(a) of the ICN Framework on Competition Agency Procedures "CAP"*). Through answers and clarifications to the given topics and questions in the form, this addendum provides insight into the legal framework and practice of the Commission in the investigation and other procedures it conducts.

By providing this addendum, the Commission participated in the drafting of the ICN document "*Competition Enforcement - COVID-19 changes*". The document is intended as an unofficial informative instrument, without recommendations, through which national bodies present possible specifics in the application of competition protection rules and in dealing with pandemic conditions.

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

The Commission took part in the annual conference in the field of competition protection, which brings together representatives of competition protection bodies and high-ranking officials of other institutions from around the world (the 19th OECD conference "Global Forum on Competition" (*2020 OECD Global Forum on Competition*), held at the beginning of December 2020 in Paris, through an online platform.

The expert service of the Commission submitted its written contributions, i.e. contributions on the following topics: "*Using Market Studies to Tackle Emerging Competition Issues*" and "*Abuse of Dominance in Digital Markets*" in Serbian law and practice.

Attendance at the *OECD Competition Open Day* was also achieved.

Representatives of the Commission participated in the following virtual workshops and webinars organized by the OECD Regional Competition Center (RCC) and the Hungarian Competition Authority, on the topic:

- *OECD RCC GvH: Virtual Seminar on Competition Policy Responses to the Crisis*);
- *OECD RCC GvH: Virtual Seminar: Competition policy to ensure a level playing field between private and public firms*) и
- Introductory seminar for new employees "Principles and procedures of competition law".

In the RCC newsletter, on the topic of *Focus on banking and insurance sectors*, a paper was published on the topic "*Specificities of Serbian insurance market and protection of competition*".

In the RCC newsletter, on the topic of *Focus on Competitive Neutrality*, a paper was published on the topic of *Competitive Neutrality and the Role of the Commission for Protection of Competition of the Republic of Serbia*.

During 2020, intensive work was done on the preparation of the annex to the document *Competitiveness in South East Europe - Policy Outlook 2021* in the part related to the policy of competition protection. Meetings aimed at coordinating activities were held online.

Participation in the preparation of the *Multi-dimensional Review of the Western Balkans* was achieved through consultations.

The Commission took part in the project and preparation of the Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans „MAP REA“. As part of this project, a draft of the Methodology for monitoring and reporting was developed, which would be the basis for the preparation of regular (annual and semi-annual) reports on the progress achieved in the implementation of activities and the fulfillment of MAP goals. This methodology was prepared by the RCC and CEFTA Secretariats in close cooperation with MAP coordinators, national public administrations, regional platforms, etc. One of the goals is bridging the differences between the EU internal market and the economic space of the Western Balkans in the context of improving regional economic integration in 2021-2024.

## **CEFTA / establishment of the Regional Economic Area**

Bearing in mind that the process of planned regional integration, with the support of the capacities of the CEFTA Secretariat, has continued, the Commission has expressed its opinion on several occasions about the documentation that shapes that process. Thus, the Commission made comments on the Draft multi-annual action plan for the establishment of the Regional Economic Area for the period 2021-2024 (REA 2). Also, the Commission commented on the documentation adopted at the Summit of the leaders of the Western Balkans and the EU in Sofia, held on November 10, 2020, as part of the Berlin process. On that occasion, it pointed to the need to amend the Action Plan for the

establishment of the Regional Economic Area for the period 2021-2024, in terms of its jurisdiction and the provisions of the CEFTA agreement concerning competition.

### **Energy community**

During the previous rounds of negotiations within the Energy Community, the Commission gave several opinions on the proposal for amendments to the Agreement, as well as proposals for other acts, always pointing out the most important aspects from the point of view of competition protection and positive regulations of the Republic of Serbia. Comments and objections were also given to the reports of the Energy Community, such as the Report on the implementation of soft measures, annual work reports, etc. At the end of 2020, the Commission contributed to the development of the Platform for the participation of the delegation of the Republic of Serbia at the 18th meeting of the EC Ministerial Council, held virtually.

### **Other activities**

Presence and participation in the following international events was also achieved:

- *the Istanbul Competition Forum*
- the summer school/workshop on the topic of digital markets and new, regulatory challenges „*Digital Markets and New Regulatory Challenges*“, organized by the *European University Institute* and *FCP - Florence Competition Programme*;
- workshop “*4th Innovation Economics Conference*”, organized by the *King's College London* и *Concurrences*.