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JANUARY 2020

NEWSLETTER N.5



DEVELOPING SOUND COOPERATION FOR FREE AND EFFECTIVE COMPETITION!



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Chapter 1

Activity 2.1. Workshop on three main subjects: Detection, investigation and fining cartels without direct evidence; Detection of bid rigging hints and Efficiency defense (Second Mission)

Chapter 2

Activity 1.1 Contribution to the revision of the Albanian Law on Competition in line with EU legislation (Second Mission: focused on the ECN+ Directive).

Chapter 3

Activity 3.4 Awareness activities organized with respect to the ACA mission activities and raise awareness on the recent development of competition (First Mission)

CHAPTER 1 CARTEL PROSECUTION WITHOUT DIRECT EVIDENCE, BID RIGGING HINTS AND EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

WORKSHOP ON THREE MAIN AREAS

Investigating, sanctioning and bringing to an end hard-core cartels and deterring individuals and companies, from engaging in such conduct, remains a top priority for competition authorities. This activity entailed the organization of a mission by MS STEs, who carried out a Workshop on detection, investigation and fighting cartels without direct evidence; detection of bid rigging hints and efficiency defense, providing the Albanian Competition Authority with further abilities to detect and investigate cartels without direct evidence, and increasing the staff's skills and knowledge on the assessment of efficiencies.

In essence, the mission consisted in holding meetings between MS STEs and their Albanian peers at the Albanian Competition Authority premises, in order to deal with methodological and practical questions and doubts, and to better know the necessities of the Albanian Competition Authority and its capacities. The experts involved in this mission were Ms. María Elena Cristobal Rodríguez, Mr. Miguel Ángel Ferreras Nogales and Ms. Pilar Vega Vicente.

Ms. María Elena Cristobal Rodríguez is an Analyst at the Economic Intelligence Unit. Ms. Cristobal Rodríguez holds a Bachelor's Degree and a Ms. Ph. D. in Mathematics. Ms. Cristobal Rodriguez holds a large experience on Competition Policies more specifically on handling information from whistleblowers, application of statistical techniques or/and Open-source intelligence (OSINT) techniques and cartel screening methods (public procurement). Mr. Miguel Ángel Ferreras Nogales is a Case Handler at the Economic Intelligence Unit at the CNMC. He holds a Degree in Law and a long experience in antitrust and mergers cases in the pharmaceutical sector and in the conduction and preparation of down raids. Mr. Ferreras Nogales has as well a wide expertise on analysis and detection of bid rigging. He has been attending meetings in ECN framework and advisory committee and oral hearing in European Commission.



Ms. Pilar Vega Vicente is a Deputy Head at the Economic Intelligence Unit of CNMC. She holds Degrees in Mathematics and in Economics. Ms. Vega is Specialised in ex-officio cartel investigations using screens and different statistical methods. She has knowledge in OSINT techniques and has been part of several OSINT (Open Source Intelligence) sub-working groups.





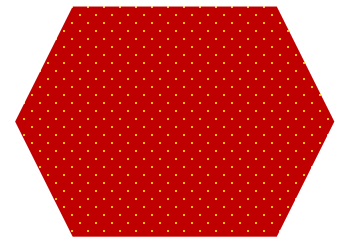
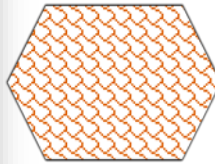
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CHAPTER 2 IMPROVING THE LEGISLATIVE ALIGNMENT AND ENFORCEMENT IN COMPETITION POLICY WITH THE EU LEGISLATION

CONTRIBUTION TO THE REVISION OF THE ALBANIAN LAW ON COMPETITION IN LINE WITH EU LEGISLATION



As a continuation of the previous works carried out within the framework of the Project in this regard, the aim of this mission was to perform an in-depth analysis of the Albanian Competition legislation in order to identify specific areas that might need study and amendment for the implementation of the ECN+ Directive both at an institutional, procedural and substantive level.



The goal of this exercise was to: A)

Familiarize the Albanian Competition Authority officials with the main objectives of the ECN+ Directive. B) Compare and discuss the main areas of the Albanian antitrust legislation that might be affected by the ECN+ Directive. C) Present and discuss how the ECN+ Directive has impacted the Spanish Competition Law. D) Additionally, to issue a report, that will contain a detailed set of proposals for the optimal transposition of the ECN+ Directive into Albanian legislation.

The experts who led this activity were Ms. Vera Sopeña and Ms. Carmen Rodilla. Ms. Sopeña is a Technician at the Services Division of the CNMC. She holds a Degree in Law with focus on Antitrust law. She has participated in several international competition fora (Latin American School of competition and AECID), and within the European Competition Network. Ms. Carmen Rodilla is an Assistant Doctor at the Commercial law department of the University of Valencia. PhD in Commercial Law, Degree in Law, Politics and Philosophy, Ms. Rodilla is specialized on excessive prices, exclusive rights, Intellectual Property Rights, patent and trademark rights, abuse of dominance. Ms. Rodilla holds as well an active participation in many international conferences on Competition Law and conducting several researches and publications.





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CHAPTER 3 AWARENESS ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED WITH RESPECT TO THE ALBANIAN COMPETITION AUTHORITY MISSION AND RAISE AWARENESS ON THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITION (FIRST MISSION)



Different stakeholders require different approaches. There are different types of stakeholders: business stakeholders – incumbent vs SMEs, public administration, consumers, academia, trade and consumer association, legal firms, etc.; and their scope varies: some are only active at a local level, or in a particular sector, while others are national wide and multi-sectorial. Activity 3.4 which took place from January 27th to the 31st, was therefore conceived with the twofold objective:

- To perform an analysis on the main problems when trying to reach stakeholders and convey ACA's competition activities:
- Develop of a Methodology on Relation with Stakeholders':

The Spanish experts provided some examples from the CNMC's strategy to manage stakeholders focusing on main aspects such as: the importance of the stakeholder, its closeness to the market, the atomization/concentration of the market, the information needed, time and resource constraints. The experts who led this capacity session were Ms. Raquel Tárrega and Ms. Cristina Vallejo. Ms. Raquel Tárrega is Chief of Service at the Competition Advocacy Department. She holds a Degree in Business Administration. Ms. Tárrega has a wide experience in International affairs, enforcement, advocacy, market studies, regulatory reports and she has attended several international working groups on competition matters such as ICN, DG Competition of the European Commission, OECD Competition Committee etc. Ms. Cristina Vallejo is Chief of Service at the Advocacy Department. She holds a Degree in Law and Business Administration. Ms. Vallejo is specialized in Advocacy : online advertising, platform economy, water supply services , international trade etc.

