



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
COMPETITION AUTHORITY  
COMPETITION COMMISSION

**DECISION**

**No. 684, Dated 18.03.2020**

**“On opening a preliminary investigation in the market of retail and wholesale of pre-medical products”**

The Competition Commission with the participation of:

Ms.	Juliana LATIFI	Charirman
Mr.	Eduard YPI	Vice/Chairman
Ms.	Leida MATJA	Member
Ms.	Adriana BERBERI	Member
Mr.	Helidon BUSHATI	Member

On its meeting dated 18.03.2020, examined the case with:

**Object:** On the monitoring of the market of retail and wholesale of pre-medical products.

**Legal Base:** Article 4, Article 9, Article 24, letter (d) and Article 44 of law no. 9121, dated 28.07.2003 “On Competition Protection”, as ammended.

**The Competition Commission**, after examining the report of the General Secretary on the monitoring of the market of retail and wholesale of pre-medical products,

**NOTES THAT:**

Based on some concerns in the media and the complaints submitted to the Competition Authority on the increase in the prices of pre-medical products, the Competition Authority based on article 28 of law no. 9121, dated 28.07.2003 “On competition protection”, as ammended, conducted a monitoring in this market, which consisted in the evaluation of the behaviour of the providers of these materials in all levels of trading (wholesail and retail).

The monitoring was focused on the trading of the products hand sanitizer, alcohol and masks, for which consumer demand has been increasing as a result of the situation created by the virus COVID-19.

From the on-site verification it was found that:

- the market lacks materials at the retail level (pharmaceutical network),

- unjustifiable increase in prices on all levels of trading of such materials (pharmaceutical warehouses and pharmaceutical network).

From the above, there are reasonable signs of a potential anticompetitive behaviour of the undertakings which operate in these levels of trading, provided for in articles 4 and 9 of law no. 9121, dated 28.07.2003, “On competition protection”, as amended.

**FOR THESE REASONS:**

The Competition Commission, based on articles 4 and 9, article 24, letter (d) and article 42 of law no. 9121, dated 28.07.2003 “On competition protection”, as amended,

**DECIDED:**

1. The opening of the preliminary investigative procedure in the market of retail and wholesale of pre-medical products.
2. The preliminary investigation will include the time period from 1 january 2020 until 31 may 2020.
3. The report of the preliminary investigation must be presented to the Competition Commission no later than 2 (two) months from the end of the investigative period.
4. The Secretary General is in charge of implementing this decision and notifying the interested parties.

This decision is effective immediately.

**COMPETITION COMMISSION**