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## The Mechanism of the Exchange of Information among Competition Authorities of SEECP

We, the heads of the competition authorities of the Participating States of the South-East European Cooperation Process (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"), after meeting in Chisinau on 22 May 2009 at the invitation of the Republic of Moldova as Chairman-in-Office of the SEECP and as a follow-up of the cooperation established in 2008, agreed in Istanbul on 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 2010 on the following principles and mechanism for the exchange of information among competition authorities of SEECP:

1. In the course of consideration of actions affecting competition, each Party shall have the right to send a request for information concerning competition law and policy to the other Parties.
2. The requesting Party shall state the purpose of its request and/or the basic circumstances of the case.
3. The requested information shall be provided not later than three months after receipt of the request.
4. Information received as a result of application of this document shall not be disclosed unless the Parties agree otherwise.
5. The Parties may refuse to provide the information within the framework of this document on the grounds of their state's interests concerning the safeguarding of commercial and other secrets according to national law, or on the grounds of confidentiality of the requested information.
6. The transfer of information shall be made in English language by mail/e-mail through designated general contact points or on the occasion of Parties' representative meetings.

7. This document shall not infringe or otherwise affect the rights and obligations of the Parties related to other international agreements which they are signatories to.

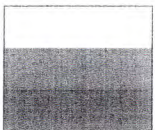
8. The Parties commit themselves to intensify and deepen the cooperation in the field of competition.



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