



SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROCESS

FIRST ROUND TABLE OF THE HEADS OF THE SEECP COMPETITION AUTHORITIES

Sofia, 29 May 2008

JOINT STATEMENT

We, the heads of the competition authorities of the Participating States of the South-East European Cooperation Process, met in Sofia on 29 May 2008 at the invitation of Bulgaria as Chairman-in-Office of the SEECP (2007 – 2008).

We recognize that close bilateral and regional cooperation in the field of protection of competition enhances economic development, stability and prosperity in the region;

We emphasize the lasting commitment to cooperation as a necessary condition for the overall development of competition in the region;

We welcome this meeting as an important opportunity to exchange information and experience, to discuss major issues on competition legislation and policy.

Bearing this in mind, we have agreed to:

Affirm our commitment and dedication to the effective enforcement of competition rules in the region;

Continue the existing high-level dialogue between the competition authorities in the interest of the region;

Intensify and deepen our cooperation in the field of competition policy, including through enhanced dialogue between national experts;

As a result, we, the heads of the competition authorities of the Participating States of the SEECP:

Declare our commitment to support in their activities the regional structures and more particularly the Regional Cooperation Council;

We welcome the support and technical expertise of willing international partners in developing the capacities of our respective competition authorities, also on a regional level;

Invite the current Moldovan Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECP for 2008 – 2009 to convene a second high-level meeting of the competition authorities that would allow us to update each other on recent and significant issues in the field of competition and to discuss topics of common interest and concern;

Express our gratitude to our host – the Commission on Protection of Competition of the Republic of Bulgaria.

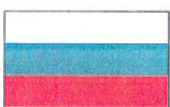
Adopted in Sofia on 29 May 2008.



Lindita MILO *Lindita*



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