

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Main priorities for 2020

Executive Summary



**COMPETITION
AUTHORITY
OF ALBANIA**



“

I think it is one of the fundamentals, not only of the European Union but also of free trade, that competition is fair.

”

—Margrethe Vestager
Commissioner for Competition

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MISSION

Investigation of anti-competitive conducts

Control of mergers and acquisitions

Review of exclusive rights

Promotion of Competition advocacy

30''

STATUS *Independent
Public
Institution*

5 Commissioners

46 Staff

55 Staff training
days

03 April 2019

Resolution of the Assembly of Albania on the evaluation of the activity of the ACA for 2019

26 June 2019

Approval of the Guideline “On damages caused and actions taken when the provisions of Law no. 9121 are breached”

4 July, 2019

Approval of “Competition Agency Procedures” within the framework of the International Competition Network

14 November 2019

The conference “Competition and Entrepreneurship”, where the IPA Twinning Project was launched

25 December 2019

Regulation “For the prevention of conflicts of interest and for the declaration of assets in the exercise of public functions in the CA”

28 January 2019

CC decided to impose temporary measures in the dental service market against the Albanian Order of Dentists

31 January 2019

CC decided the opening of the in-depth investigation in the banking sector for Raiffeisen Bank, National Commercial Bank, Credins Bank and Intesa SanPaolo Bank.

31 July 2019

Closing of the preliminary investigation in the market of storing and deviation of electricity and imposing obligations on KESH SHA

10 October 2019

CC decided to open the in-depth investigative procedure on Bankers Petroleum Albania in the market of production and trading of crude oil

24 December 2019

CC decided to give some recommendations regarding the profession of advocate, notary and claim adjuster to the:

- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
- Chamber of Advocacy
- Chamber of Notaries
- Association of Claim Adjusters
- Secondary banks

to understand
THE AUTHORITY

PROCEEDS

12.5

million ALL

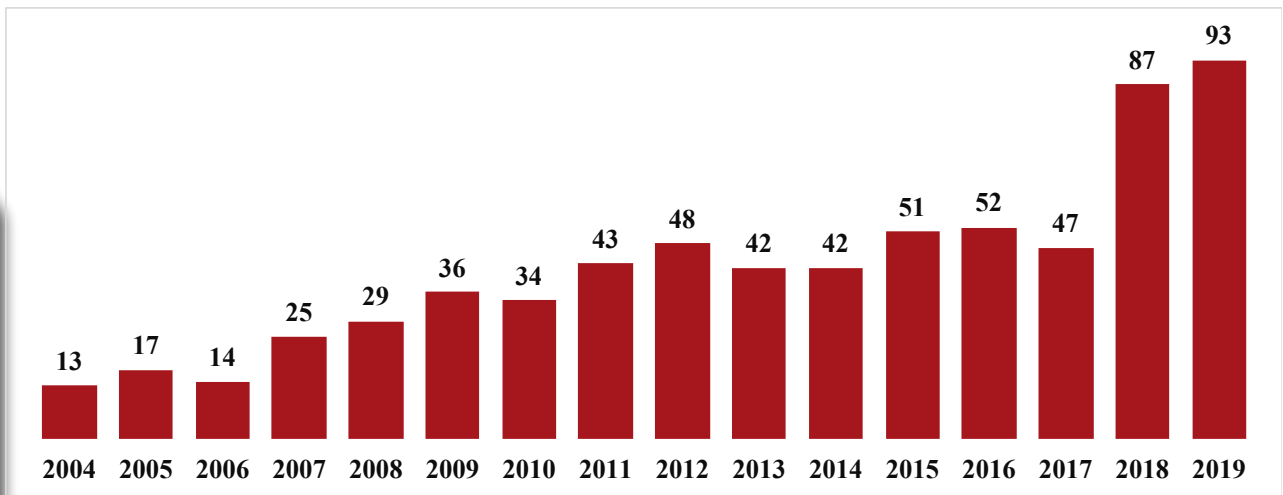
Fees from merger notification
filings

BUDGET

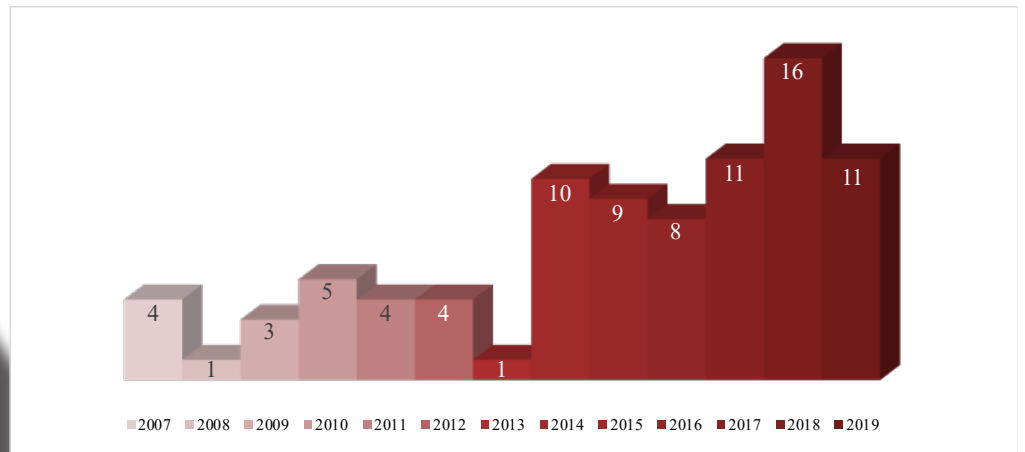
77.9

million ALL

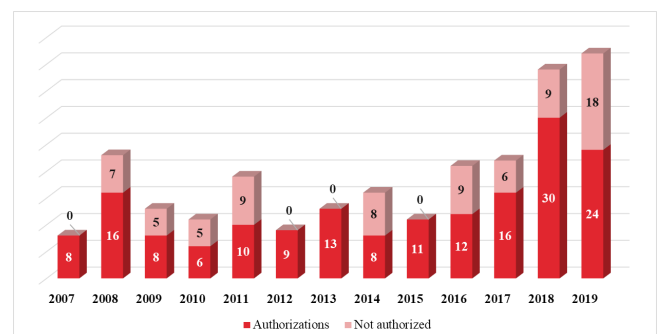
Budget 2019



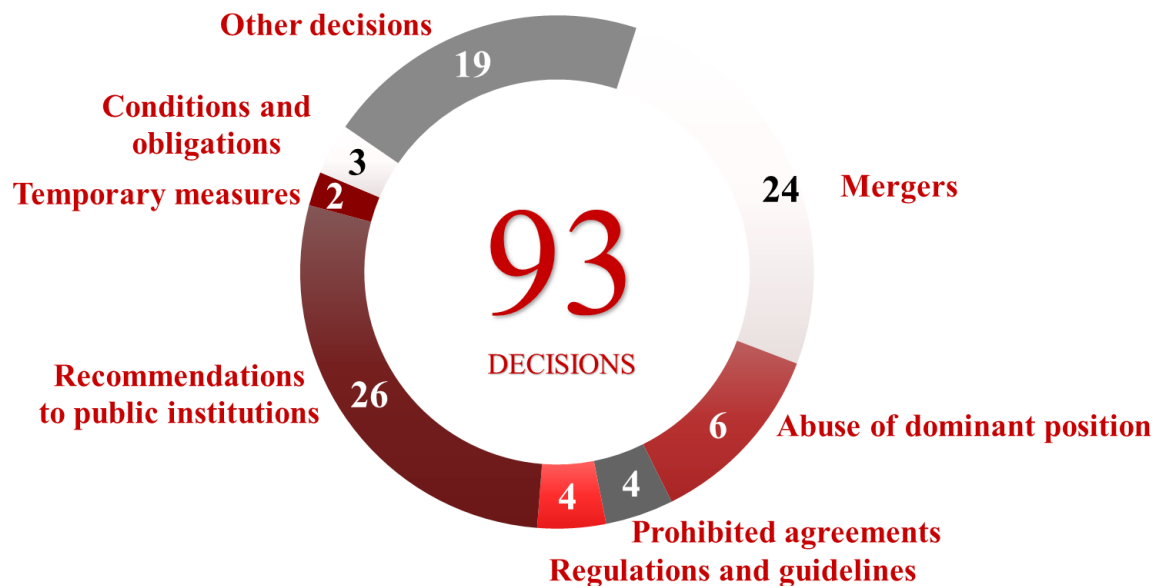
Total decisions / year



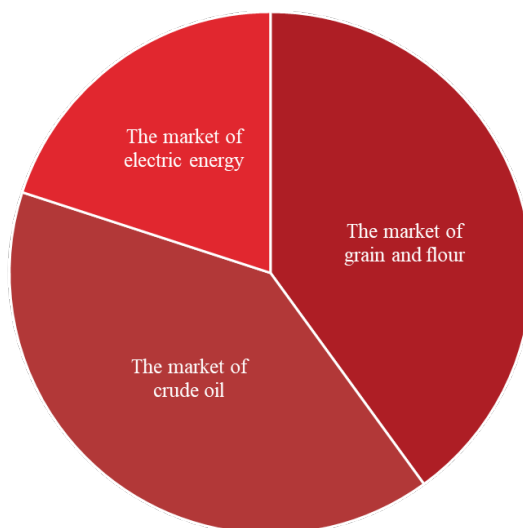
Investigative procedures / year



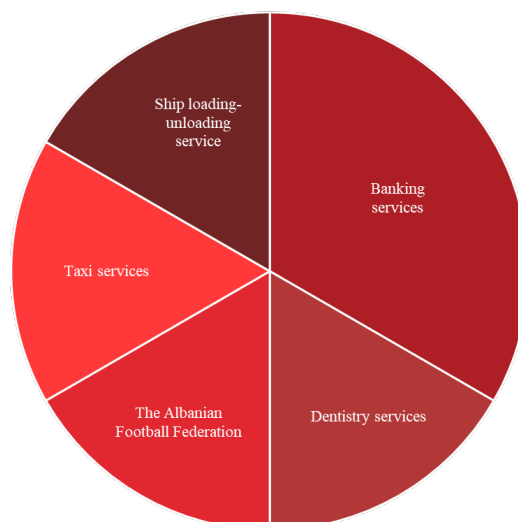
Merger authorizations



Decisions taken during 2019



Production market cases during 2019



Non-production market cases during 2019

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE CHAIRWOMAN OF ACA

2019 represents another challenging year for the economy, markets, authorities and institutions in Albania. From this perspective, complex developments impacted and guided the activity of the Albanian Competition Authority to put efforts to successfully fulfill its legal responsibilities. As before, the focus of its activity has been the functioning of free, open markets, where participants respect competition principles to benefit economic growth and population welfare.

Free competition is one of the main pillars which guarantees the superiority of the market economy. Figuratively speaking, if the market is free and competitive, the competition between the players is fair. But not only that, it guarantees maximum effectiveness in the use of capital, manpower, productive capacities and natural resources.

The ACA has continuously monitored and investigated certain market segments during 2019, based on its activities principles, priorities, specific issues of the moment, raised alerts in the media or other means of communication, as well as complaints from citizens and businesses.

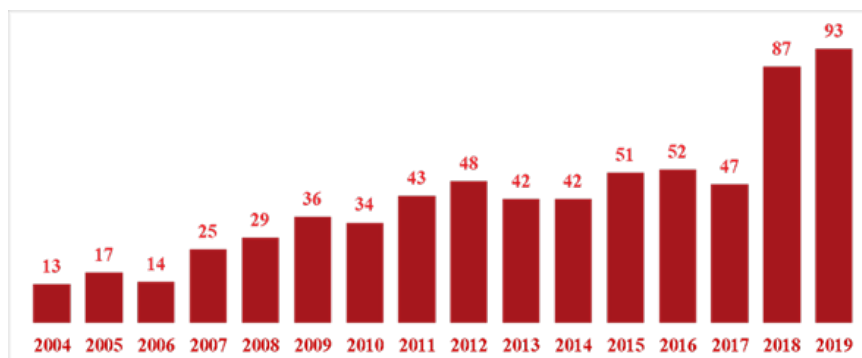
More specifically, during 2019, ACA has accomplished:

- 15 (fifteen) monitoring procedures, where we highlight the electricity market of storage and diversion, air transport market, the physical security procurement market, the insurance market, the banking market and the market of mobile services.
- 11 (eleven) investigative procedures, where we highlight the market of banking services, the market of loading and unloading in the Port of Durres, the market of dental services, the crude oil market, the flour market, the taxi market and the energy market.

All the monitoring and investigative activity of the ACA has been carried out in compliance with the Competition Commission decisions, which is the decision-making body of the institution. Specifically, 93 (ninety-three) decisions were taken by the CC, of which:

- 24 (twenty-four) are authorizations of concentrations, of which, 8 in the internal market and 16 in the external market;
- 45 (forty-five) legal assessments related to the electricity, water, telephony, financial sector and many other segments.

During 2019, the ACA poured 12,583,318 ALL into the state budget, which derives from the concentrations (notification and authorization of concentrations), and constitutes 17% of the Institution's budget.



The year 2020 coincides with another complex period. The Albanian economy will face another challenging year where among other things, it will have to recover from the damages caused by last year's earthquake. From this point of view, ACA possesses enough human potential to meet all challenges and its legal objectives. As in the past, during this year our activity will aim at protecting competition in all three pillars defined in the law:

- Avoiding prohibited agreements (cartels);
- Avoiding abuse of dominant position;
- Controlling mergers or concentrations of undertakings.

In addition, ACA will not only be a promoter but also an advocate of competition and consumer interests.

Thank you,

Prof. Dr. Juliana Latifi

Secondary legislation

ACTS APPROVED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NPEI - 2019

Guideline no. 3, dated 26.06.2019 “On damages caused and actions taken when the provisions of law 9121/2003 are breached”

The Guideline aims at defining necessary rules to ensure the possibility of exerting effectively the right to request compensation, from one undertaking or a group of undertakings, relating to the damages incurred by any natural or legal person, which derive from breaches of competition law.

It defines the rules that urge free and effective competition in the market and the removal of barriers for its proper functioning, by ensuring free and effective protection in the territory of the Republic of Albania, for anyone who has incurred such harm.

ACTS APPROVED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ICN (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION NETWORK)

The framework consists of a set of legal rules regarding the following of fair procedures in investigative processes and pursuant to the competition law, by all Competition Authorities which are members of the ICN.



It mainly defines the principles followed by the ICN, relating to working groups between Competition Authorities which are members of the network, as well as in competition policy, by always reflecting the wide consensus within the global competition community.

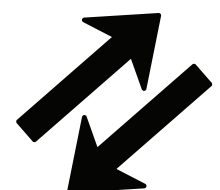
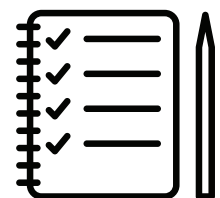
OTHER ACTS APPROVED IN APPLICATION OF LAW NO. 9121/2003 “ON COMPETITION PROTECTION”, AS AMENDED

Regulation “On the allocation of costs for the prosecution of proceedings by the CA”

The scope of the regulation is the reflection of the experiences of homologue Authorities of European countries but also of competition agencies in the region.

Regulation “For the prevention of conflicts of interest and for the declaration of assets in the exercise of public functions in the CA”

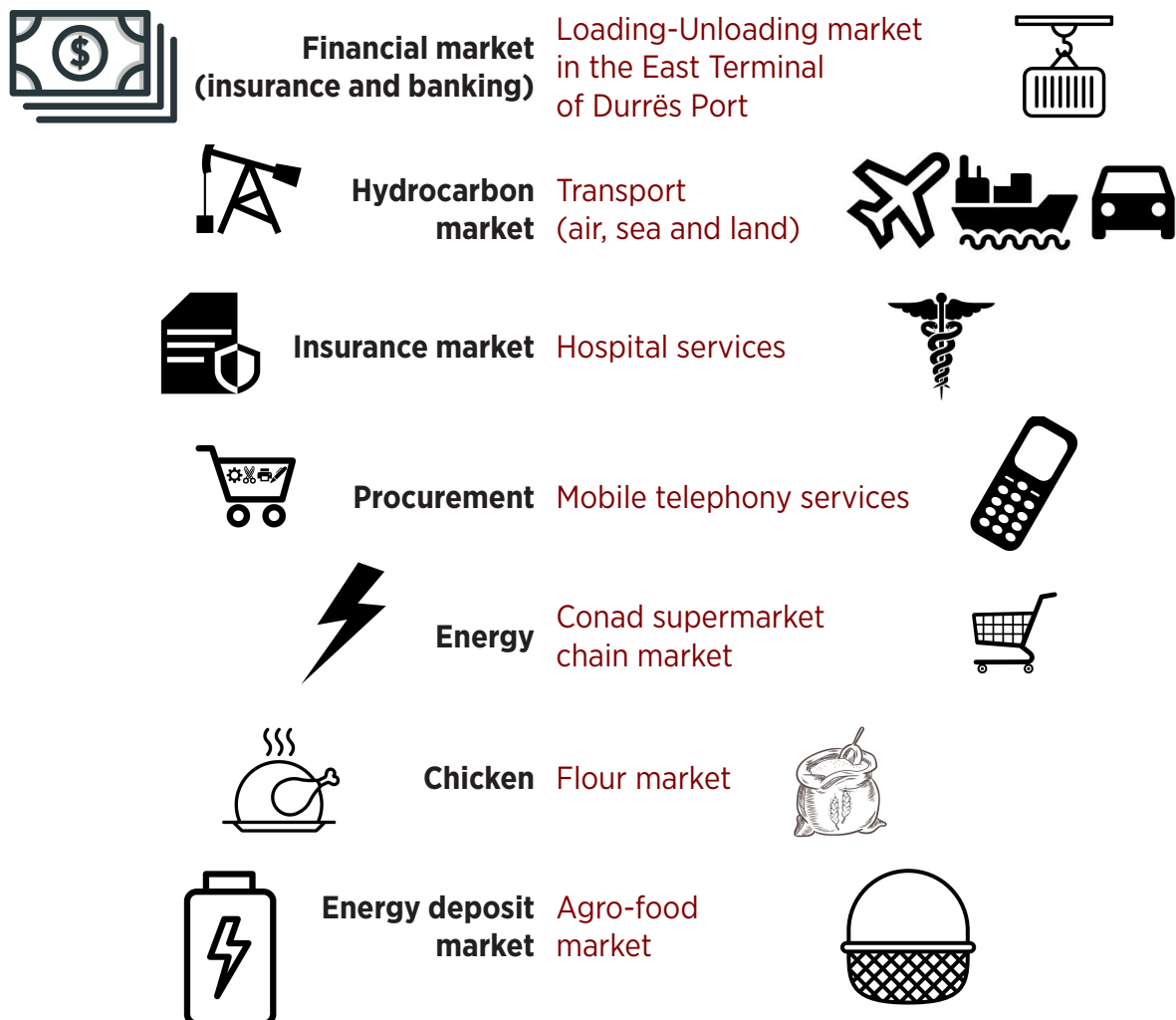
The scope of the regulation is to guarantee an impartial, transparent decision-making, in the best interest of the public and its trust in the officials of the Competition Authority, through the prevention of the conflict of public interests with private ones in the exertion of the functions in the Competition Authority.



Market monitoring

The Competition Authority, pursuant to article 28 of law no. 9121/2003, conducts market monitorings and analysis, aiming at developing free and effective competition.

Competitive elements such as: market structures and its developing dynamics, the behaviour of market players in relation to their competitors, consumers as well as legal and economic barriers for new entrants in the market, are evaluated through monitoring.



Investigative procedures

Electricity depositing and deviation market

CC, through decision no. 644, dated 31.07.2019, “On closing the preliminary investigation in the market of depositing and storing of electric power, giving obligations to KESH SHA, as well as the implementation of articles 69 and 70 of law no. 9121/2003 “On competition protection”, as ammended”, decided:

- The finding of violation of competition rules which derive from the dominant position of KESH, in relation to the procedures of connection and implementation of:
 - a. The contract for the deviation of electricity between the undertakings KESH SHA and GSA SHPK.
 - b. The contract for the depositing of electricity between the undertakings KESH SHA and EFT AG.
- Assigning the following obligations on KESH SHA:
 - a. The obligation of KESH SHA, pursuant to ERE's decision no. 93/2019, to interrupt the continuation of these two contracts
 - b. The obligation of KESH SHA to notify the Energy Secretariat in Vienna on the implementation of ERE's decision no. 93/2019.
 - c. The obligation of KESH SHA to notify the Competition Authority on the implementation of ERE's decision no. 93/2019.
 - d. The obligation of KESH SHA, as an operator with dominant position, to request a preliminary evaluation from the Competition Commission regarding any future contract which imposes exclusive or particular rights, for undertakings (companies) or certain products.
- Monitoring the implementation of this decision for a period of 1 year.



In-depth investigation in the Banking Sector

The Competition Commission, through decision no. 592, dated 31.01.2019 decided the opening of the in-depth investigative procedure on the undertakings: Raiffeisen Bank, National Commercial Bank, Credins Bank and Intesa San Paolo Bank in the markets of:

- deposits
- loans
- banking transfers

This investigation will be conducted after the findings of the preliminary investigation opened through decision no. 516, dated 22.05.2018, from where it was found that for these 4 banks there is:

- stability of market shares relating to deposits and loans,
- high degree of concentration in product segments,
- very low and rigid interest rates on deposits,
- high interest rates on loans,
- *spread* many times higher compared to interest rates on deposits,
- high commissions and banking penalties for switching banks,
- high commissions for banking transfers in foreign currency,
- high profit rates

The object of the in-depth investigation will be the evaluation of the behaviour of these 4 main banks according to the classification made by the Bank of Albania, regarding the commissions and interest rates for the markets which are object of investigation.



Investigative procedures

Free Professions market

CC through decision no. 574, dated 26.11.2018, decided to open the General investigation in the free professions market (notaries, lawyers and property valuers) since as a regulated market it may present restrictions to enter the market as well as in terms of professional behaviour.

CC through decision no. 668, dated 24.12.2019 “On issuing some recommendations regarding the exertion of the profession of lawyer, notary and property valuer”, decided to issue the following recommendations:

Ministry of Justice,

- To fulfill the respective legal framework in the advocacy and notary fields;
- To send to the CA for a legal evaluation sublegal draft-acts, including the respective reports and the methodology for calculating fees when they are defined;
- To take under consideration the possibility of unifying the dimensions of the tables, the font, the colour of the table, itself thus offering the same perception to the consumer and not manipulating consumer's choices, when drafting the new order “For the minimal conditions that must be met by a notary office to enable the normal exercise of the activity of the notary”

Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure,

- To review the existing legal framework providing legal provisions for the organization and functioning of the Association of Property Valuers;
- To send to the CA for a legal evaluation sublegal draft-acts, including the respective reports and the methodology for calculating fees when they are defined;

Chamber of Advocacy,

- To enable the display on its website of all the necessary information, including information on trainings to be provided by it

Chamber of Notaries,

- To offer appropriate assistance to the notaries regarding continuous trainings and qualifications

Association of Property Valuers,

- To strengthen its role, as a condition for the increase in quality of valuing services, establishing contacts with organizations and association with the same nature and the exchange of information with them; drafting and implementing policies aimed at professional development

Second tier Banks.

- To make the process of selection of property valuers transparent and to comply with public procurement principles





The market of road transport of taxi passengers (4+1 places) in the city of Tirana

CC with decision no. 609, dated 10.04.2019, decided to open a preliminary investigation in the market of road transport of taxi passengers (4+1 places) in the city of Tirana.

Through decision no. 667, dated 24.12.2019, “On closing the preliminary investigation in the market of road transport of taxi passengers (4+1 places) in the city of Tirana and the issue of some recommendations”, CC decided:

- To recommend to the Ministry of Energy and infrastructure and to the Ministry of Finance to review and update the Joint Guideline of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications and the Ministry of Finance (now Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and Ministry of Finance), no. 1726/3, dated 21.04.2008 “On setting prices and tariffs in the taxi service” and the unification of all acts which are issued pursuant to this guideline.
- To recommend to the Municipality of Tirana:
 - a. The adherence to the hierarchy of normative acts, after revising and updating the guidance by MEI and MoF, since the municipal Council sets the differentiated level of fees and tariffs within it's jurisdiction, in accordance with the joint guideline of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications and the Ministry of Finance.
 - b. To verify the licensed transporting entities in taxi services, through making transparent the list of licenced and registered entities by the General Directorate of Metrology and Calibration (DPMK) and the General Directorate of Taxes, on its website.
- To recommend to the General Directorate of Metrology and Calibration (DPMK) to perform taximeter sealing according to the tariff set by the Decision of the Municipality Council for all licenced undertakings which operate in the taxi market, together with the serial number for every licensee and their periodic verification (yearly).



Investigative procedures

The dental services market

CC through decision no. 586, dated 28.01.2019, decided the opening of the preliminary investigative procedure in the dental services market, in order to verify if there are signs of restraint or distortion of the provisions of law no. 9121/2003 “On Competition Protection”, as amended.

Through decision no. 599, dated 15.03.2019 “On closing the preliminary investigative procedure in the dental services market and giving some recommendations”, the CC decided:

- To recommend to the Ministry of Health and Social protection that:
 - a. Pursuant to article 69 and 70 of the law, to request the evaluation of the Competition Authority for every draft normative act which might cause quantitative restrictions for entering the market and trading; which aims at setting exclusive rights or special rights in certain areas, for certain firms or products; or for draft normative acts which impose the same practices regarding prices and terms of sale
 - b. To preliminarily request the opinion of the Competition Authority in cases where tariff setting methodologies or tariff reviews are envisaged to be established in the dental services market.
 - c. The tariffs offered to the consumers in the dental services market must be cost-oriented.
- To recommend the Order of the Dentist that:
 - a. In cases when the governing bodies of the Order of the Dentist take decisions regarding different aspects which affect competition in the market, aiming at protecting free and effective competition in the market, the provisions of law 9121/2003 “On Competition Protection”, as amended, must be respected.



The market of production and trading of crude oil



“On the opening of the in-depth investigation procedure against Bankers Petroleum Albania Ltd in the market of production and trading of crude oil”

CC through decision no. 652, dated 10.10.2019 “On the opening of the in-depth investigation procedure against Bankers Petroleum Albania Ltd in the market of production and trading of crude oil”, decided to open the in-depth investigation procedure on the undertaking Bankers Petroleum Albania LTD in the market of production and trading of crude oil, for the period from 1 January 2016 until 31 October 2019.



The investigative procedure will continue during 2020, in compliance with the procedural deadlines of Law 9121/2003 “On Competition Protection”, as amended, and Decision no. 652, dated 10.10.2019.



Merger Control

Balfin LLC/Komercijalna Banka AD Skopje/ Tirana Bank JSC

CC, by decision no. 580, dated 17.01.2019 “On the acquisition of control through the sale of 98.83% of Tirana Bank JSC shares from Piraeus Bank SA to Balfin LLC and Komercijalna Banka AD Skopje” decided to approve the merger with conditions and with recommendations for the Bank of Albania.



Besniku LLC/Atlas Mills LLC

CC, by decision no. 622, dated 13.05.2019 “On the authorisation of the concentration obtained through the sale of 100% of the quotas of Atlas Mills LLC by Besniku LLC” decided to authorise this concentration, since the intended transaction will not cause meaningful changes in the Albanian market. The combined market share after the concentration does not cause concerns regarding competition in the market.



Telekom Albania JSC/Albania Telecom Invest AD

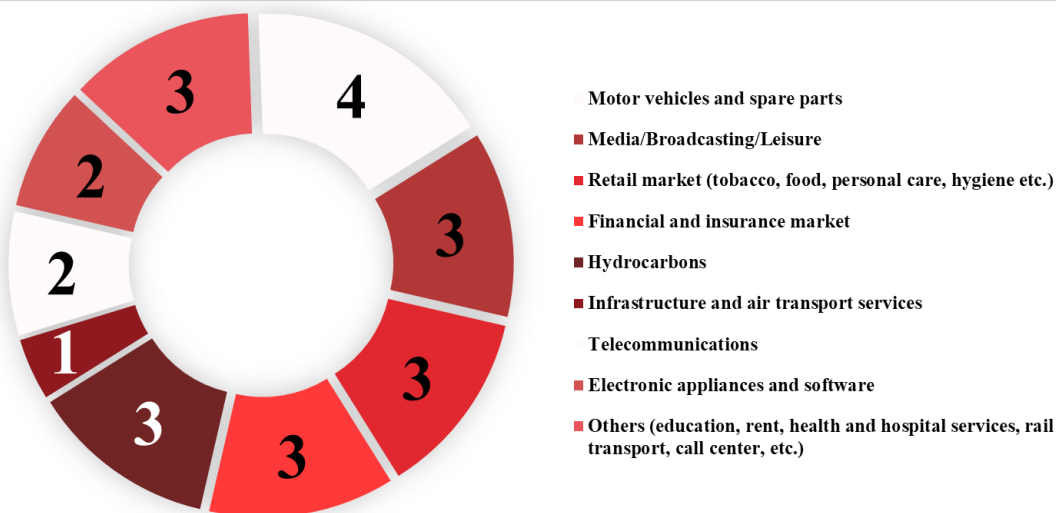
CC, by decision no. 610, dated 10.04.2019 “On the authorisation of the concentration obtained through the acquisition of control of Telekom Albania JSC by Albania Telecom Invest AD” decided to authorise this concentration after it was found that the transaction will not affect in the creation or strengthening of the dominant position in the market of Telekom Albania JSC.



Albanian Telecommunications Union JSC/Digicom JSC

CC, by decision no. 621, dated 13.05.2019 “On the authorization of the concentration obtained through the acquisition of control of Digicom LLC by Albanian Telecommunications Union LLC” decided to authorise this concentration after it was found that it doesn't exhibit signs of restriction of competition in the market or in one of its segments in particular as a result of the creation or strengthening of a dominant position.





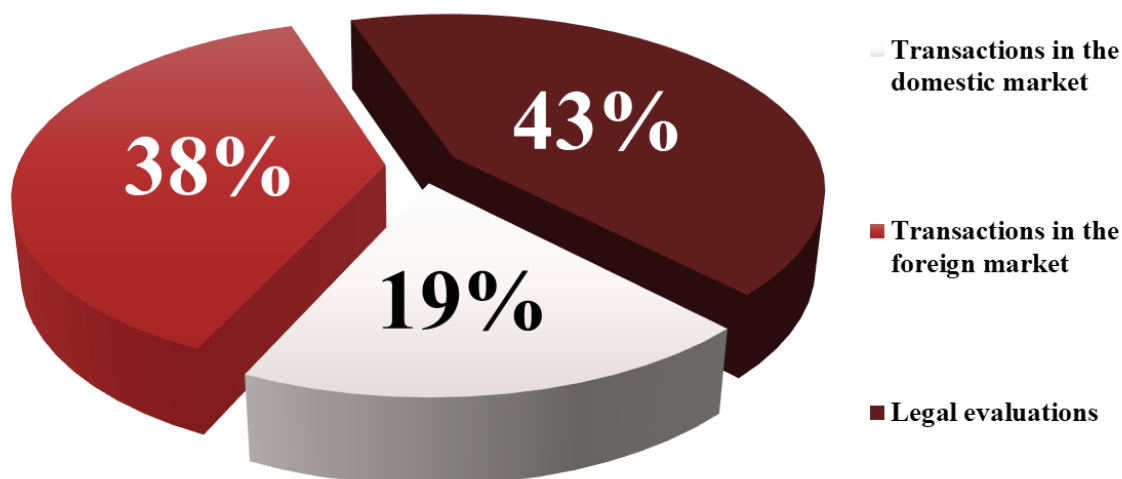
Transactions in the external market

1. CC, by decision no. 598, dated 15.03.2019 “On the authorization of the concentration obtained through the acquisition of control of ALH Group LLC by Lufthansa Industry Solutions AS GmbH”, decided to authorise this transaction. The relevant market in this transaction was considered the market for the import, wholesale and retail of sportswear.

2. CC, by decision no. 616, dated 02.05.2019 “On the authorization of the concentration obtained through the creation of a Joint Venture, with full functions, from the undertakings Rockwell Automation Diamond Holdings Inc., Rockwell Automation Diamond Foreign Holdings Inc., Schlumberger Technology Corporation, Cameron International Corporation and Schlumberger B.V.”, decided to authorise this transaction, since it will not create overlap, or upstream or downstream relationships between the activities of the parties at the national level.

3. CC, by decision no. 663, dated 03.12.2019 “On the authorization of the concentration realized through the acquisition of control of Avon Products, Inc by Natura Cosméticos S.A” decided to authorize this transaction. The relevant product market in this transaction may be considered the market of beauty related products; however, by taking into consideration the nature of the transaction, as well as referring to the practices of the European Commission in similar cases, the relevant market may be left open.

4. CC, by decision no. 624, dated 31.05.2019 “On the authorization of the concentration obtained through the aquisition of control of Saudi Basic Industries Corporation by Saudi Arabian Oil Company” decided to authorise this transaction, since it will not create overlap, or upstream or downstream relationships between the activities of the parties at the national level.



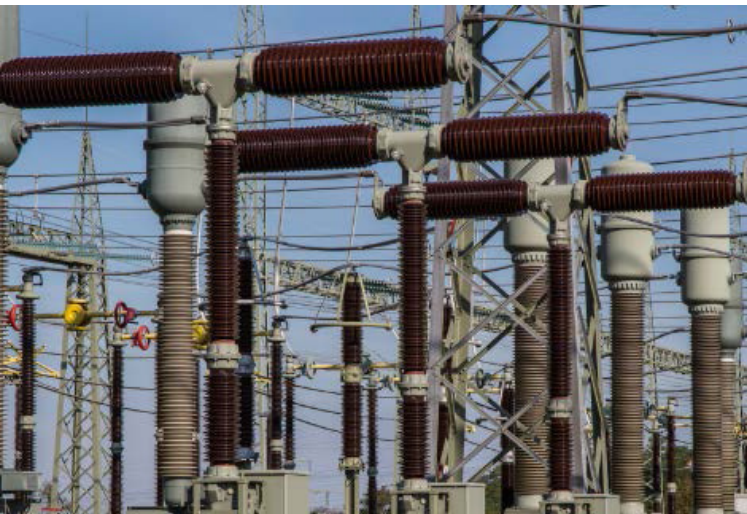
Exclusive rights

The market for the organization and administration of football activity, and the economic activities involved, such as the sale from a single unit that holds exclusive rights

CC, through decision no. 607, dated 01.04.2019 decided to open the in-depth investigative procedure on the Albanian Football Federation.

The Directorate General of Competition of the European Commission includes the Sports Sector among the 13 most important sectors, due to its great importance and considerable economic impact in every country, even in the EU, due to its broadcasting rights business, especially for TV, becoming very profitable.

The European Court of Justice decided that since the conducted activity is an economic one, which is undeniable for sports, it falls under the rules of articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty (TFEU), therefore competition provisions must be applied.



Electricity storage and diversion market

CC, by decision no. 588, dated 28.01.2019 decided to open the preliminary investigative procedure in the electricity storage and diversion market, in order to assess if there are signs of restriction or distortion of the provisions of law no. 9121/2003 "On Competition Protection", as amended.

The market of offering security services on state-owned facilities

CC, through decision no. 640, dated 25.07.2019, decided to give some recommendations to "Illyrian Guard" SHA regarding the exercising of its activity.



ACA facing court proceedings

Cases adjudicated in the Administrative Court of First Instance

One case has been examined in the Administrative Court of First instance in Tirana.

Litigation with:

Claimant: "Conad Albania" sh.p.k.

Defendant: Competition Authority

Object: Repeal of decision no. 560, Dated 15.10.2018 of the CC "On closing the preliminary investigative procedure on Conad Albania SHPK in the market of trading food products which have the "Conad" trademark, in the Republic of Albania, and on giving some recommendations".

The Administrative Court of First Instance dismissed the claim of Conad.

Cases to be tried by the Administrative Court of Appeal

One case has been examined in the Administrative Court of Appeal

Litigation with:

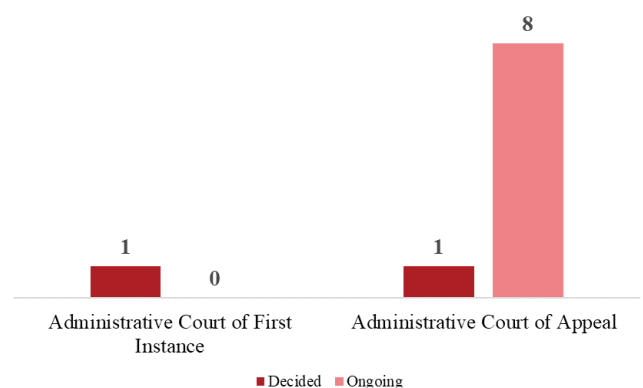
Claimant: "EKMA Albania" sh.p.k.

Object:

1. Repeal of decision no. 572, dated 22.11.2018 "On imposing fines and obligations on "EKMA Albania" sh.p.k. in the leasing market for the storage and trading of AgroFood Products in the city of Tirana".

2. Securing the lawsuit through the suspension of the Competition Authority's decision no. 572, dated 22.11.2018 "On fining and imposing on "EKMA Albania" sh.pk, in the leasing market for the storage and trading of Agro-Food products in the city of Tirana", by not imposing any fine on the claimant until the decision on the merits of the suit has been rendered.

The Administrative Court of Appeal, on 18.06.2019, in the counseling room, decided to dismiss the claim for securing the lawsuit by "EKMA Albania" sh.p.k., and to accept the Competition Authority's Complaint, thereby creating the possibility for the execution of the fine and the regulatory measures.



Competition Advocacy

Conference “Competition and Entrepreneurship” 15 years of Competition Authority



Roundtable titled: “Knowing Competition and its challenges”

In the context of raising awareness for a competitive environment, during November 2019, 2 roundtables titled “Getting to know competition and its challenges” were organized with the participations of students from “Luigj Gurakuqi” University in Shkodër on 11 November, and “Ismail Qemali” University in Vlorë on 25 November.

As a beneficiary of the EBRD Project “Technical Assistance for the CA, Capacity Building, Legislation Drafting and Advocacy”, in implementation of Component 1 of the “Competition Advocacy Strategy” project, CA has begun drafting the Advocacy Strategy.

Through the European Union's project, IPA 2015, IPA Twinning “Capacity Building for the CA to Protect Free and Effective Competition in the Market”, twinning project with the Spanish Competition Authority (CNMC), in implementation of component 3, “CA's Role in cooperating with different stakeholders”, the CA will conduct seminars and meetings with regulators and various market players in different sectors of the economy.



MOU with public institutions and regulatory bodies

On 02.04.2019 the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Albanian Competition Authority and the Public Procurement Agency.



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International cooperation

Croatian Competition Authority:



Memorandum of Understanding between the Albanian Competition Authority and the Croatian Competition Authority, signed on June 10-11 2019 in Zagreb, Croatia

Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority



Visit on September 26-27 to the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Tirana.

On its meeting with the Competition Directorate, the representatives of the Albanian Competition Authority were presented with the experience of a member country of the EU regarding the implementation of competition law, cooperation between member states within the European Competition Network (ECN), harmonization of the national legislation with the European legislation, and especially the ECN+ Directive.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)



On June 10-12, the 18th meeting of the “Inter-governmental Group of Experts on Competition, Law and Policy - IGE” was organized by UNCTAD in Geneva. The Albanian Competition Authority’s Chairwoman Mrs. Juliana Latifi, on the second day of the meeting, conferred a presentation on the performance and developments over the years of the institutional capacities of the Albanian Competition Authority after the completion of the UNCTAD project and the role of the ACA in relevant cases of competition related to the digital economy.

American Bar Association (ABA)



CA attended the 67th session of the Spring Meeting of the Antitrust Law Section on March 26-29, 2019 in Washington DC, United States of America, organized by the American Bar Association.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)



The CA made its contribution to the “Competition for Market” session at the Global Competitiveness Forum which was held in Paris on December 5-6, where it presented the case of the concession EMS-APO, which was considered as a success case.

Regional Competition Center (OECD-GVH/RCC)



During 2019, the Albanian Competition Authority continued its cooperation with OECD-GVH / RCC through the ongoing training that this center offers to Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries.

Training sessions organized by OECD-GVH / RCC with the participation of the ACA:

- 11-13 March “Restrictions in vertical sales and E-commerce”, Budapest, Hungary
- 10-12 September “Enforcing Competition Law and Advocacy in the Pharmaceutical sector”, Kiev, Ukraine
- 22-24 October “Regulatory Measures in Competition cases”, Budapest, Hungary
- 10-12 December “Competition in the Energy Sector”, Budapest, Hungary

ACA was mentioned in the January 2019 newsletter: Albanian Case in a Bid Rigging Procurement Procedure - Fight Against Corruption

International Competition Network (ICN)



ACA has continued to participate in several working groups, part of the International Competition Network, respectively: the Advocacy working group; the working group for the effectiveness of the Authority; the concentrations working group; the working group for unilateral conducts in cases of abuse of dominant position.

On July 4, CC approved the “Competition Agency Procedure Framework of the Competition Authority”, within the framework of the International Competition Network.

This legal framework allows for further cooperation and dialogue between Competition authorities, thus encouraging free and effective competition in the market and simplifying its correct functioning.

Energy Community Secretariat (ECS)



CA participated in the 24th Forum of the Energy Community Secretariat, which was held in Athens on May 28-29.

European Integration



The integration process comprises one of the priorities and challenges of the Competition Authority's activity. As a leading institution for Chapter 8 "Competition policies and liberalization", CA, during 2019 has fulfilled its mission, focusing on these main directions:

Within the PKIE framework in the medium term, for years 2017-2020 regarding Chapter 8 "Competition Policy", the CA in compliance with the deadlines, has completed the approximation of competition legislation with EU acquis through:

- Guideline No. 3 "On the Approval of the Guideline "On the damages caused and the actions taken when the provisions of Law no. 9121 dated 28.07.2003 "On Protection of Competition", as amended" are breached"

The CA as a leader institution of chapter 8 of the SAA "Competition policy", during the pre-screening process, which was realized during the Explanatory Meeting, in the European Commission during the dates 4-6 november 2019, where representatives of DG Competition presented the European legal framework on competition. The Albanian side was represented by members of the Interinstitutional Working Group for European Integration for chapter 8 "Competition Policy", which includes competition, state-aid and liberalisation.

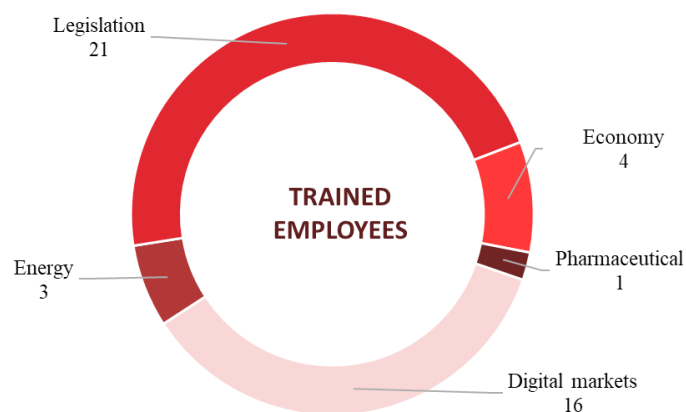
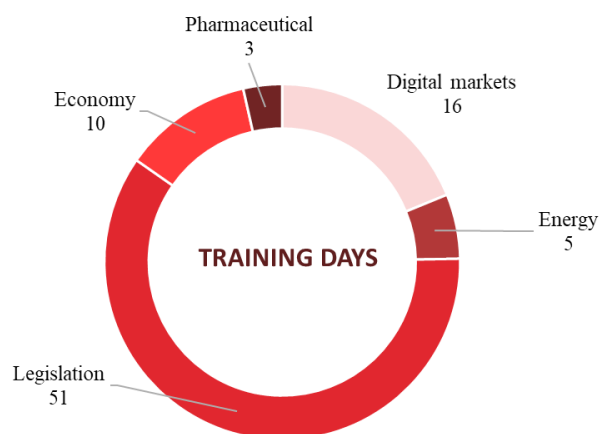
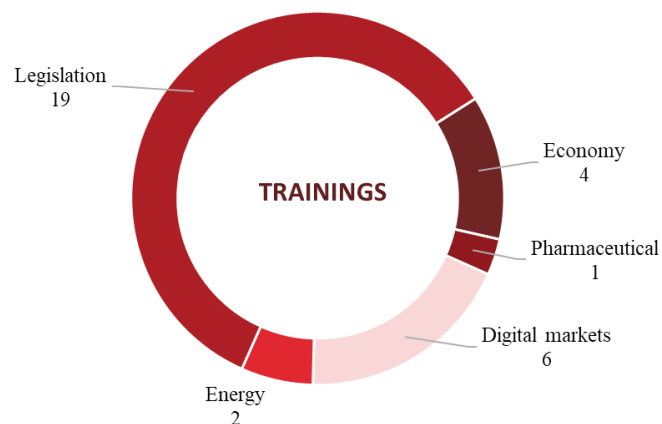
Following the commencement of the preparatory process for the National Plan for European Integration 2020-2022, notified by the Ministry for Europe and External Affairs, the CA has begun working in cooperation with other institutions, part of the Interinstitutional Working Group for European Integration part of chapter 8 "Competition policy", in order to identify relevant acts to be approximated in the period 2020-2022 regarding competition as well as considering the areas of expertise of other institutions part of IWGEI.



Human capacities

During 2019 a total of 32 trainings were conducted abroad while 10 were conducted domestically, where a considerable number of **55 staff** of the institution were trained, with some of the employees being trained more than once.

All the trainings were **conducted within the international cooperation framework** of CA with OECD GVH / RCC, CRESSE, TAIEX, domestically by the School of Public Administration, and in the premises of the CA under the IPA Twinning Project with the Spanish National Commission for Markets and Competition.



2020 priorities



CA, in accordance with the purpose of law no. 9121/2003, for free and effective competition in the market, will continue to oversee and investigate mainly in markets with a direct impact on consumer interests and well-being such as:

Air transport services market TIA airport; pharmaceutical market; dental services market; liquid natural gas market (LNG); microcredit market;

as well as continue the monitoring and the conclusion of the investigations regarding:



Mobile telephony

Hospital services

Banking market

Higher education market

The market of economic activities conducted by the Albanian Football Federation

Institutional alignment with EU standards and practices

During 2019, ACA will:

- Continue working with legal amendments (additions and changes) on law no. 9121/2003 in line with the EU acquis, and the problems encountered during the implementation of the law, as well as the review of the secondary legal framework, in the framework of the implementation of the IPA Twinning project “Strengthening the Capacity of ACA to protect free and effective competition in the market”.

- Draft the “5-year Competition Advocacy Strategy”, in the framework of implementing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) project, “Technical Assistance to CAs, Capacity Building, Legislation Drafting and Advocacy”.

- Ensure the implementation of the Competition Agency Procedures, within the framework of the International Competition Network.

- Strengthen its administrative capacities through the training of new and existing staff aiming at increasing the quality of the monitorings, inspections, drafting of reports, analysis as well as the quality of defending CC’s decisions in all stages of litigation.

- Continue to implement the NPEI 2019-2020, for the year 2020, and the tasks that derive from the SAA, as the leader of chapter 8 “Competition Policy”, where it will work for the approximation of the following acts:

- European Commission Guideline (2002/C 165/03) on market analysis and evaluation of significant market power, within the Community regulatory framework, for electronic communications networks and services.

- Directive (EU) 2019/1 “Empowering the Competition Authorities of the EU Member States to Be More Effective and Ensure the Functioning of the Internal Market” (ECN+), (32019L0001).

- Engage in increasing cooperation with homologue institutions and regulatory bodies by also signing Memorandums of Understanding (MOU).

