



**REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË**  
**-AUTORITETI I KONKURRENCES-**

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**Press Release**

**“The role of the Judiciary in the enforcement of competition rules”**

On 17 – 18 December 2015, The Albanian Competition Authority in Cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), organized a two days Judicial Seminar on the Role of the Judiciary in the enforcement of competition rules, in Tirana, Albania, for approximately 20 judges. The participants in this training seminar were judges of the first and second levels of the Judicial as well as judges from the first level of the Administrative Court and from the Court of Appeal, not only from Tirana, but also representatives of the other districts, as well as representatives from the Competition Authority.

This Judicial Seminar is the first of a series of seminars that will be held during 2016 within the framework of the UNCTAD Project entitled "Follow-up of the Albanian Peer Review" This UNCTAD project envisages other activities that will strengthen the work of the Competition Authority in particular those activities that were highlighted by the Peer Review practiced in UNCTAD during 2015

Working with Judges on Competition Law matters is also one of the recommendations that were proposed by the European Commission to the Albanian Competition Authority in recent years.

The training was held at the premises of the School of Magistrate and the main objective of the Seminar was to familiarize participants of a generalist legal background with the economics underpinning Albania's competition law and other related regulations, and those familiar with economic disciplines with the legal approach to enforcing competition policy in order to promote the smooth and effective enforcement of competition legislation in line with competition policy objectives imbedded in the competition law.

Two judges from the Supreme Administrative Court and Sofia Administrative Court from the Bulgarian Judicial system delivered presentations on their experience in the enforcement of competition rules together with an UNCTAD expert from the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch who shared UNCTAD extensive experience in assisting Judiciaries around the world as per the mandate given by the United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices.

The Seminar begun with a session that addressed theoretical issues and then proceed on the basis of real-life and theoretical cases intended to illustrate and clarify issues related to the judicial review of competition cases. Active participation from the Albanian Judges took place with particular focus groups addressing the theoretical presentations delivered during the first day of proceedings.

UNCTAD and the Albanian Competition Authority are currently planning to hold a second Judicial Seminar to be held during the last fortnight of March 2016. Such event will be organized together with other competition activities.