



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
-COMPETITION AUTHORITY-**

PRESS RELEASE

On the organization of the training seminar with Albanian judges

“Calculation of fines and judicial review in cases of infringements of competition”

On 29-30 June 2016, the Albanian Competition Authority in collaboration with the Conference on Trade and Development of the United Nations (UNCTAD) organized the following seminar with Albanian judges in the field of competition, which was welcomed by the Head of the Institution Mrs. Lindita Milo (Lati), representatives of UNCTAD Mr. Pierre Horna, Legal Affairs Officer at the Department of Competition and Consumer Policies in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and Mr. Kastriot Selita, Head of the Tirana Administrative Court of Appeal.

The training seminars are being organized in support of the Peer Review Report and relevant recommendations, where one activity of this project is the training of the judiciary in Albania, in aspects of competition law and its implementation in practice.

The Judicial Seminar will be held in terms of institutional capacity building for law enforcement and competition policy. UNCTAD estimates that one of the reasons why many competition authorities (including Albania) are unable to collect fines in an accelerated way lies in the fact of delays in the judicial review, therefore these training seminars are very important and necessary, for the awareness increase of judges on administrative sanctions, their calculation methods, the principle of proportionality in issuing the fines etc.

Participants in the training seminar were judges of the Tirana Judicial District, Administrative Court judges (first instance and appeal), not only from the capital but also representatives of the districts, as well as representatives from the Competition Authority.

This seminar is the third and completes a training cycle organized for the judiciary, which have begun to address the issues and the role of the judiciary in the field of competition, the standard of proof in the review of these cases and recently addressed administrative sanctions / fines methodology applied during their calculation in the framework of competition rules.

Topics addressed in this seminar, treats not only concepts and methodology, but also sensitize judges with regard to how are imposed the fines, their calculation and what the terms of reference takes the Competition Authority in establishing an

administrative sanction taking into account the principle of proportionality of the fines and other similar principles.

The training took place at the premises of Hotel Rogner and the discussion was based on the European and Albanian legal framework, the similar methodology that our countries use in calculating the fines, and on the experience that the experts brought about the implementation in practice. The seminar also brought the experience of member countries of the EU such as Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria and Czech Republic in terms of the legal framework and methodology they use. Representatives of the Albanian Competition Authority brought their experience in dealing with these issues. Albanian experts from the Administrative Court of Appeal, Mr. Kastriot Selita, the Head of the Court and Znj. Altina Nasufi, Judge at the court, brought the Albanian experience, discussed aspects of the law and problems that might arise in practice, and interpreted aspects of the methodology the calculation of the fine, emphasizing the relevance of the organization of these seminars for members of the Albanian judiciary.

The seminar started with a theoretical session that addressed issues and then continued with the treatment of the practical aspects but also hypothetical cases in order to illustrate and clarify issues related to the calculation of fines / sanctions for the purpose of preventing anti-competitive behavior. Albanian judges' participation was active especially with the establishment of "working groups" where they discussed concrete and hypothetical cases.

UNCTAD and the Albanian Competition Authority will continue their cooperation in organizing further trainings and workshops during 2016.