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**REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË**  
**AUTORITETI I KONKURRENCËS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**From one project to another – the Competition Authority strengthens European partnerships and opens a new chapter of cooperation**

Immediately following the successful completion of the project with UNCTAD, the Competition Authority has launched a new project with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, GIZ, and the German competition authority, the Bundeskartellamt.

Just a few days after the international conference “Competition Compliance – Launching the Competition Compliance Manuals” was held in Tirana—a joint initiative of the Competition Authority with UNCTAD and the EBRD—the Albanian Competition Authority continues to expand its cooperation with international partners and to further advance the modernization of the competition culture in Albania.

This new major initiative consists of the signing of a Joint Declaration of Intent with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, GIZ, and the German competition authority, the Bundeskartellamt.

This new partnership aims to:

1. strengthen capacities in antitrust investigations;
2. enhance the effectiveness of merger control;
3. improve cooperation with the judiciary;
4. harmonize practices with EU guidelines and standards and modernize the Authority’s public communication.

The cooperation will be based on the EU Twinning project methodology, through direct exchanges of expertise, training activities, specialized missions, and study visits to German institutions.

This important step places the Competition Authority on a new development trajectory: moving from the consolidation of domestic capacities towards full integration with the competition standards of the European Union.