



Vesna Patrlj
Vice - President of the Competition Council

Ms Vesna Patrlj was born on 4 March 1961.

She graduated at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb in 1984 and passed her bar exam.

From 1985 to 1997 she worked in the Department for implementation of international agreements at the Croatian Pension Insurance Institute. In the position of the advisor (1994 – 1997) she participated in the negotiations and drafting of the proposals for social insurance international agreements between the Republic of Croatia and many European countries.

Since the establishment of the Croatian Competition Agency (CCA) in 1997 she has occupied the leading positions involving the implementation of competition rules. From 1997 to 2001 she was the head of the Department for assessment of agreements, from 2001 to 2003 she was the deputy of the head of the CCA, then in 2004 she was an independent advisor in the Office of the President of the Council, the head of the Division for Legal and Economic System from 2004 – 2005 and from 2005 to 2009 she was the head of the Competition Division.

Based on the decision of the Croatian Parliament on 20 February 2009 she was appointed a member of the Competition Council in her first term of office from February 2009 to February 2014. She was appointed for the second term of office from February 2014 to February 2019, whereas she started her third term of office in March 2019. Since December 2013 she has been the vice-president of the Competition Council.

In her career in the CCA expert team and the Competition Council, that lasts for more than two decades, she has made invaluable contribution in all the areas falling under the jurisdiction of the CCA.

She participated in the drafting of the most important CCA decisions and opinions, the CCA annual reports, the Statute and other bylaws. She has been a strong proponent of the professional training of the CCA experts.

She is the author of all the proposals and revisions of competition rules in Croatia (Draft Competition Act 2003, 2009 and 2013 and the accompanying implementation bylaws in 2004 and 2011) while she was responsible for their compliance with the EU competition rules in the working groups whose member or head she was appointed.

She was a member of the working group engaged in the drafting of the Act on actions for damages for infringements of competition law that entered into force on 22 July 2017.

She was also a member of the working group active in the drafting of the Act on the prohibition of unfair trading practices in the business-to-business food supply chain (UTPs Act) that entered into force on 7 December 2017 empowering the CCA for its enforcement. Together with the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture as the competent ministry in the area concerned, she participated in the drafting of the CCA Guidebook of Q&As replying to queries of the addressed actors and explaining the UTPs rules for the purpose of ensuring a faster and smoother compliance of the addressed actors and their practices with the UTPs rules.

Ms Patrlj was also a member of the working group in the preparation for the negotiations for the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the EU in Chapter 8: Competition Policy, particularly covering restrictive agreements. She was also a member of the expert team supporting the Croatian representatives in the negotiations concerning the conclusion of the Agreement of Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA).

She has been receiving a specific training in a number of seminars, workshops and conferences in the area of competition law and policy, organized by the European Commission, the International Competition Network (ICN), OECD, UNCTAD, WTO, IBA, EIPA, the Academy of European Law in Trier, the US Ministry of Justice etc.

She has also given papers at many professional gatherings on competition law and policy home and abroad. She is a guest speaker at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb – Chair for commercial and company law.

Ms Patrlj is the author or the co-author of a number of articles and contributions in the area of competition law and the unfair trading practices that have been published home and abroad.

She is also an examiner at the State exam for administration in the specific area of competition law and policy at the Ministry of Public Administration.

She does not support any political party.