

Cooperation Agreement
in the competition policy field concluded between
the Austrian Federal Competition Authority
and
the Croatian Competition Agency

The Austrian Federal Competition Authority and the Croatian Competition Agency (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”),

Expressing the wish to promote cooperation and enforcement in the field of competition policy,

Wishing to share the experience of the Austrian Federal Competition Authority in the implementation of the EU competition law,

Aiming at creation of favorable conditions for the development of bilateral relations,

Based on principles of equality and mutual benefit,

Ensuring the conditions for an effective functioning of the goods and services markets according to the competition rules/principles,

Underlying the role of competition in the real and effective development of market economy,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

The Parties will promote and strengthen cooperation in competition law enforcement and policy.

Article II

Cooperation will be realized in the mutual interest of the Parties in the basic directions as follows:

- a) exchange of legislative norms and other legal tools on the basis of which the Parties’ activities are carried out for the fulfillment of competences in the competition field;

- b) improvement of the legal framework on restrictive business practices and of merger control, taking into account the Parties' experience and the *acquis communautaire*;
- c) exchange of experience in the field of case investigations, concerning the violation of competition legislation;

Article III

The main forms of the Parties' interaction in the field of competition policy may be as follows:

- a) exchange of non-confidential information related to the legislative developments and cases;
- b) organizing study visits aiming at experts training;
- c) exchange of experts for participation in professional activities and/or for assistance on enforcement and for improvement of decision-making process, if necessary, at the request of one of the Parties;
- d) attendance to the conferences, symposiums, seminars and/or other events organized in Austria and in Croatia having as purpose the competition advocacy;
- e) expert meetings or consultation possibilities via e-mail between the experts of the Parties which operatively ensure the interface for exchange of information on concrete interest issues;
- f) organization of meetings/visits at the high level within both Parties for discussing the perspectives and directions in which the bilateral cooperation will continue;
- g) organization of training stages, in the limit of available funds;
- h) exchange of documents, studies and books on competition.

Article IV

The transfer of information will be made in English language by e-mail through designated general contact points or on the occasion of Parties' representatives meetings.

Article V

The events' agenda, data, place and other elements, including financial ones, shall be individually established by Parties.

Article IV

In order to meet the objectives of the present Agreement, the Parties shall designate the contact persons to be notified: the contacts shall take place within official and/or informal meetings.

Article VII

The disputes regarding the interpretation and implementation of the present Agreement, if any, will be solved by the Parties through friendly means.

Article VIII

The present Agreement shall not infringe and/or otherwise affect the rights and obligations of the Parties relating to other regional or international agreements, which they are members / signatories to.

Article IX

The present Agreement may be jointly revised by Parties, upon prior consultations.

Article X

The present Agreement shall enter into force for a non-defined period at the date of its effective signature.

Article XI

Each of the Parties has the right to withdraw itself from Agreement by submitting a prior written notification to the other Party, within 3 months before the withdrawal becomes effective.

Article XII

The Agreement is signed in Vienna on 30th June 2008 in two identical copies in English, one for each of the Parties.

**FEDERAL COMPETITION
AUTHORITY OF AUSTRIA**


THEODOR THANER

DIRECTOR GENERAL

CROATIAN COMPETITION AGENCY


OLGICA SPEVEC

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL