

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE COMPETITION AGENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
AND THE COMMISSION ON PROTECTION OF COMPETITION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

The Croatian Competition Agency and the Bulgarian Commission on Protection of Competition, hereinafter referred to as “**The Parties**”,

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

Wishing to share the experience of the Bulgarian Commission on protection of competition 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,

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

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties herein shall use their best endeavors to promote and develop cooperation in the field of competition law and policy enforcement.

Article 2

The cooperation shall be of mutual interest and shall be basically applied to:

a/ exchange of information on legislative norms and other legal sources on the basis of which the activities in the field of competition are performed;

b/ exchange of information on competition enforcement in the field of case investigation and adopted decisions in relation to anticompetitive activities and the control of concentrations taking into account the Parties’ experience and the *acquis communautaire*;

c/ information exchange on major areas of interest for the Parties;

d/ cooperation in convening international events, depending on the Parties' availability.

Article 3

The Parties have agreed that the main instruments of cooperation shall comprise the following:

a/ sharing of non-confidential documents, studies and issues on competition law and policy;

b/ exchange of experts and organization of study visits aiming at experts training within the limit of available funds;

c/ attendance at conferences, seminars and other events, organized in Bulgaria or in Croatia having as purpose the competition advocacy;

d/ organization of joint, high-level meetings for discussions on the latest developments and priorities in the field of competition law and policy.

e/ exchange of documents, studies and books on competition.

Article 4

Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) shall be financed on a reciprocal basis.

Article 5

The exchange of information shall be effected in English.

The meetings of Parties' representatives shall be held in English or in the official languages of the Parties provided that translation is available.

Article 6

The agendas of events, dates and places and other matters will be established by mutual agreement.

Article 7

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 8

Any disputes that may arise regarding the enforcement of this MoU shall be solved by friendly deliberation between the Parties.

Article 9

This MoU shall not in any way affect and/or infringe upon the rights and obligations of the Parties in relation to other international agreements/MoUs which they are signatories to.

Article 10

No clause in this MoU shall be understood to require the Parties to exchange confidential information.

Article 11

This MoU can be jointly revised by the Parties after prior consultations.

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

Article 12

This MoU shall become effective upon signature and shall remain in force for one year. It shall be automatically renewed, unless one or both Parties object on the contrary, in which case the objecting Party shall submit a prior written notification.

This MoU on Cooperation between the Croatian Competition Agency and the Bulgarian Commission on Protection of Competition was executed in two identical copies in English, one for each of the Parties.

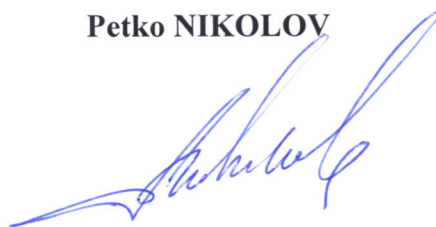
Signed in Sofia on 29 May 2008.

Nikola POPOVIC



VICE-PRESIDENT
Competition Agency
of the Republic of Croatia

Petko NIKOLOV



CHAIRMAN
Commission on Protection of Competition
of the Republic of Bulgaria