Aiming to accede to the European Union, Serbia has undertaken significant legal and governance reforms in recent years, including a reform of its competition law regime. In this context, the Commission for Protection of Competition of the Republic of Serbia (CPC) volunteered to participate in a Peer Review of Serbia’s Competition Law and Policy organised by UNCTAD with financial contribution from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.

With substantial support provided by the CPC, an eminent competition expert, Abel Mateus, the former head of the Portuguese competition authority, assessed the state of competition law and policy in Serbia as consultant for UNCTAD.

This report will serve as a basis for the peer review examination during the 11th IGE. The examination panel will include representatives of other competition authorities. In addition, speakers from the floor will be invited to contribute to the discussions. Thanks to its interactive format, this peer review will also provide the CPC with a unique opportunity to draw lessons from experiences of other competition authorities in the implementation of competition policies.

The findings and policy recommendations of the peer review will be used to design tailor-made technical assistance activities to reinforce the effectiveness of competition law enforcement in Serbia. Development agencies, technical assistance providers, bilateral donors and multi-lateral and international organizations are invited to support the respective technical assistance activities.

1 Voluntary peer review of competition policy: Serbia (Full Report), UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2011/2
Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Serbia

Wednesday, 20 July 2011 (15:00 - 18:00)
Room XII (third floor)

WORK PROGRAMME

15:00 – 15:05 Introductory Remarks by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

15:05 – 15:10 Introduction of the Panel by its Chair
— Mr. Vincent Martenet (Swiss Competition Commission)

Panellists:
— Ms. Monica Widegren (Swedish Competition Authority)
— Mr. Sam Pieters (European Commission)
— Mr. Bill Kovacic (US Federal Trade Commission)
— Mr. Salvatore Rebecchini (Italian Competition Authority)

Part I

15:10 – 15:30 Presentation of the Peer Review Report by Abel Mateus, consultant for UNCTAD

15:30 – 15:50 Observations by Mr. Bozidar Djelic, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia and Prof. Vesna Besarovic, Member of Council of the Commission for Protection of Competition of the Republic of Serbia

15:50 – 17:00 Questions and Answers: Successive rounds of questions posed by panellists and speakers from the floor and responses given by Serbian delegates. Speakers from the floor will include delegates from:
— Zimbabwe
— [...]

Part II

17:00 – 17:45 Interactive session between SCPEC and other competition agencies on specific issues identified in the Peer Review Report on which the SCPEC seeks advise from panellists and speakers from the floor
— Austria
— Germany
— Japan
— Hungary
— Armenia

Part III

17:45 – 18:00 The way forward: Presentation of capacity building activities to assist the CPC in its future work programme followed by discussion, wrap-up of final recommendations by the Chair and closing remarks by Mr. Bozidar Djelic, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia

18:00 - 19:30 Reception hosted by the SCPEC at the Delegates’ Restaurant, Palais des Nations, 8th floor