

**Twenty-First Intergovernmental Group of Experts on
Competition Law and Policy
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Opening Plenary

Mr. Irakli Lekvinadze

Chairman

Georgian National Competition Agency

Georgia

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to be a part of the twenty-first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy. It is a great honor to address you today as a representative of the Georgian National Competition Agency. I would like to extend my gratitude to the organizers and all the attendees for this opportunity.

Georgian National Competition Agency was established in 2014, on the basis of the Law of Georgia on Competition and in line with the European Union Association Agreement.

In 2020, the Law and related sub-legal acts were substantially amended with the support of European Union experts in order to harmonize the national competition legislation with the EU standards to the fullest extent.

The legislative changes include:

New functions and enforcement tools of the GNCA; Better system of concentration control procedure; Changed management and institutional structure of GNCA which will enter into force in 2025; Improved model of competition enforcement in regulated sectors;

The amended legislation is broadly in line with the EU best practice and the commitments of Georgia under the DCFTA.

On January 2021 the antidumping legislation came into force and the relevant department started functioning in the Agency. In 2022, the Parliament of Georgia adopted the Law of Georgia on the Protection of Consumer Rights. On 2022 November the 1st, the Georgian National Competition Agency started enforcing this law.

Since 2020, after the amendments in the Law of Georgia "On Competition", **GNCA has completed investigations cases - of restrictive agreements** in the municipal procurement process on food service supply and another in translation and interpreting industry, **distortion of competition by the state authorities** in the spheres of municipal services, navigation industry and vehicle inspection sector, **abuse of dominant position** in the spheres of the advertisement industry, insurance/medical sector, **unfair competition** in the advertisement industry, transportation services, insurance sector, tourism industry and software market;

Ongoing investigations include the following markets: Pharmaceutical and fuel-case on restrictive agreements; Tobacco and Electronic tickets case on abuse of dominant position and restrictive agreements; Fast Food and Shipping-case on unfair competition;

as for the market monitoring, GNCA has conducted monitoring of the following sectors: Pharmaceutical, Auto Fuel, Glass waste collection/recycling, Wheat and Bread, Auto Insurance, Retail Chain Stores, Baby Food Market, Filtered and Unfiltered Cigarette Markets, Nuts and blubery Market Auto fuel market (CNC, LPG), The market of the insurance offered during the sale of Banking Products

Since 2020, GNCA has granted 10 approval of concentrations in several sectors. Concentrations included both horizontal and vertical mergers.

We have introduced a new mechanism with the cooperation of the Public Registry of Georgia to check the facts of unnotified concentrations and react to that.

Since 2014, GNCA has had close cooperation with international institutions. The Agency has signed a memorandum of understanding with 18 countries.

Georgian National Competition Agency is proactively working with international competition and consumer rights protection networks. We value your contribution and support to overcome existing challenges and achieve a better future for everyone.

In order to maintain fair competition and raise awareness in the country, from 2022, GNCA hosts an annual international conference on Competition and Consumer Rights Protection. I would like to thank once again Ms. Teresa Moreira and UNCTAD for their contribution and support before and during the conference, as she was our valuable keynote speaker at the event.

This year, the Conference will be held on November 16-18. It is my honor to invite you, dear delegates. Your presence and contribution to the conference will be highly beneficial for our Agency and our country.

Dear delegates, I wish you all peace and stability and hope to see you at our conference in Tbilisi.

Thank you for your attention.