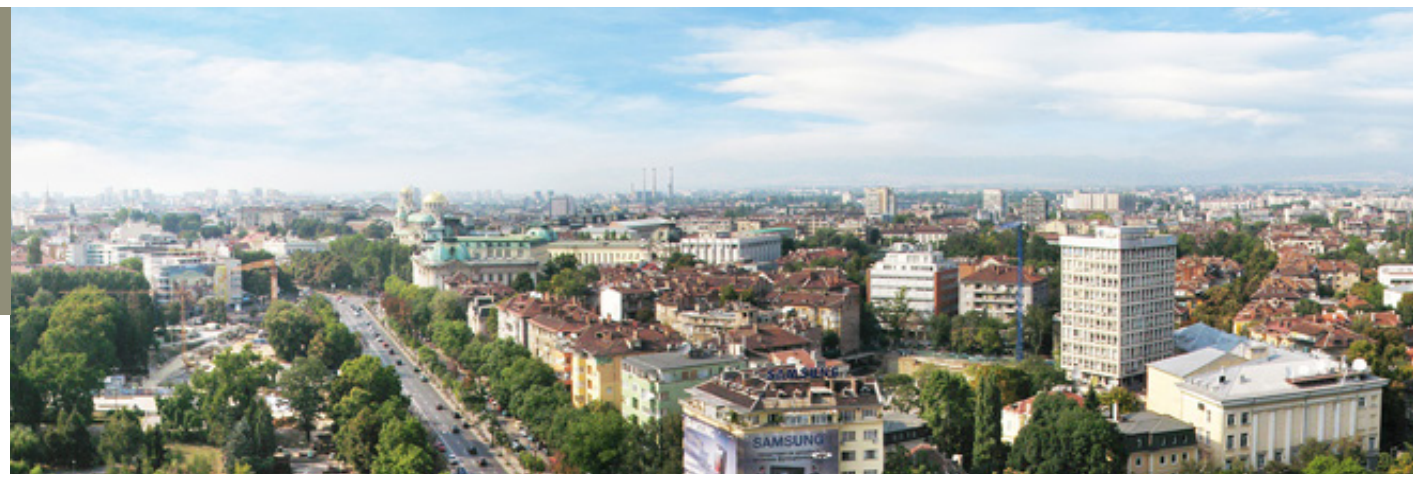


SCF

Sofia Competition Forum



MR. PETKO DRAGANOV

DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD

“UNCTAD supports the processes that lead to stronger and better connected authorities because of the significance of competition policy for international trade. I applaud the initiative that is the Sofia Competition Forum.”



BULGARIAN COMMISSION
ON PROTECTION OF COMPETITION



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

SCF

Sofia Competition Forum

MR. HASSAN QAQAYA

HEAD OF COMPETITION
AND CONSUMER POLICIES BRANCH OF UNCTAD

“Competition agencies in the Balkan region share objectives and methods which allow them to cooperate in practice regardless of the differences in their systems. They share a common belief in the need for impartial, independent competition enforcement, subject to the rule of law. The Sofia Competition Forum is a cooperation platform that will facilitate the development of common strategies and enforcement actions, and will provide an excellent opportunity for discussions and exchange of experience.”



MR. PETKO NIKOLOV

CHAIRMAN OF THE CPC

“I praise the positive spirit of collaboration which, in spite of our different systems and traditions, allows us to work together. It is clear that – to carry out our duties responsibly – we must strengthen our bilateral and multilateral channels of cooperation. And we should not be deterred by the fact that our agencies operate under different systems; we can always agree on the basic principles, continue our convergence efforts, and find efficient ways to work together. This is what we will aim to do in the Sofia Competition Forum.”

Commission on Protection of Competition

18 Vitosha Blvd., Sofia 1000

www.cpc.bg

What is?
Target Audience
Objectives
Cooperation

} SOFIA
COMPETITION
FORUM

WHAT IS THE SOFIA COMPETITION FORUM?

The Sofia Competition Forum is a regional initiative which strives to foster cooperation and the development of regional ties in the Balkan region, thus ensuring a uniform application of competition rules. The initiative aims to assist countries in the region in adopting and enforcing competition law and to maximize the benefits for these countries of well-functioning markets.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SOFIA COMPETITION FORUM?

Building on existing international fora, such as UNCTAD, OECD and the ICN, the Sofia Competition Forum aims to provide the competition authorities of the region a platform to exchange information and expertise in the field of competition policy. In view of the fact that most countries in the region face similar challenges in their transition to market economy, the problems in competition law enforcement are also of the same kind. The creation and

improvement of competition legislation, capacity building, application of the best practices in law enforcement, and finding common solutions to the specific competition concerns in the region are key objectives of the Sofia Competition Forum. Dialogue is mainly focused on issues related to:

- Improving the competition legislation, which fits the specific legal and economic structure and can best address the development needs of the young competition authorities in the region;
- Institutional building of the competition authorities;
- Capacity building for efficient enforcement of competition law and policy;
- Negotiation process for EU membership.



WHO IS THE INITIATOR OF THE SOFIA COMPETITION FORUM?

The Sofia Competition Forum is a joint initiative of the Bulgarian Commission on Protection of Competition and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Both institutions have joined their efforts in the establishment of an active informal platform for technical assistance, exchange of experience and consultations in the field of competition policy and enforcement.

WHAT IS THE TARGET AUDIENCE OF THE SOFIA COMPETITION FORUM?

The main target group of the Sofia Competition Forum is the competition authorities of the region, but the project is also open to other countries which would like to join the initiative.

Extract from the Memorandum of Understanding between the CPC and UNCTAD

“UNCTAD and CPC have a mutual interest in the development of an environment conducive to competitive markets and the promotion of a competition culture. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to formalize the mutually beneficial relationship between UNCTAD and CPC, which is based on the shared objective to assist Balkan countries in adopting and enforcing competition law and to maximize the benefits for these countries of well functioning markets.”

WHAT MECHANISM FOR COOPERATION DOES THE SOFIA COMPETITION FORUM EMPLOY?

The Sofia Competition Forum is designed to provide capacity building assistance and policy advice through seminars and workshops on competition law and policy. Through maintaining a web-based platform for publication of information, materials and presentations, as well as for conducting webinars, the Sofia Competition Forum expects to further facilitate the cooperation between competition authorities in the region and foster the development of regional relations among them.

