



THE GEORGIAN NATIONAL COMPETITION AGENCY IS THE MAIN ORGANIZATION DEFINING AND IMPLEMENTING COMPETITION POLICY.

THE AGENCY PROMOTES FAIR COMPETITION ON THE MARKET, TO SUPPORT THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH, BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS AND CONSUMER WELFARE.

THE NATIONAL COMPETITION AGENCY LAUNCHED A HOTLINE TO PROTECT CONSUMER RIGHTS

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IF YOUR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED, CONTACT US

www.gnca.gov.ge

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROTECTION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS STARTED FUNCTIONING IN THE NATIONAL COMPETITION AGENCY

The Law of Georgia on the Protection of Consumer Rights came into force on June 1, 2022, and the Agency will start considering applications on November 1 of this year.

- An action plan was developed
- The review process of the by-law prepared based on the Law of Georgia on the Protection of Consumer Rights was completed, in the frame of which the representatives of the Agency met with representatives of about 20 business associations, the civil sector, international counterpart agencies, partner business companies of the e-commerce association and experts in the field.
- A hotline was launched, where any interested person can call and get important and interesting information.
<https://bit.ly/3rRdQlh>

MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS

1

Any person has the right for applying to the Georgian National Competition Agency not later than 2 years after committing the violation.

2

The Agency shall start an investigation if it has information regarding damages or is likely to damage the interests of a group of consumers.

3

The Agency shall investigate a case within 1 month, it may last for a period not exceeding 3 months, and make a decision with regard to the confirmation or rejection.

4

A decision of the Agency may be appealed in court.

5

With regard to the confirmation of a violation, the Agency shall determine a period for a trader for the restoration of a violated right or/and the termination of an action prohibited by this Law.

6

Impose a penalty on a trader in the case of the failure to execute or the improper execution of a decision made by the Agency

7

If during a period of 12 months, a trader commits a violation repeatedly, he/she shall be subject to a penalty which is double the amount of the previously imposed penalty.

JULY-SEPTEMBER | 2022

GEORGIAN NATIONAL COMPETITION AGENCY

THE NATIONAL COMPETITION AGENCY LAUNCHED AN AUTO FUEL MARKET INVESTIGATION

Based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of Georgia and the results of the 2022 monitoring, the Georgian National Competition Agency has launched an auto fuel market investigation.

The investigation aims to study the competitive behavior of large sellers in the fuel market and its compatibility with the competition legislation.

Regular Brand Fuel - Displayed price

	1-Jan-2022	1-Feb-2022	1-Mar-2022	1-Apr-2022	1-May-2022	1-Jun-2022	1-Jul-2022	1-Aug-2022	1-Sep-2022	3-Oct-2022
Socar	3.04	3.09	3.14	3.79	3.79	3.65	3.70	3.75	3.48	3.38
Wissol	3.12	3.12	3.22	3.84	3.84	3.70	3.75	3.75	3.44	3.34
Lukoil	3.07	3.07	3.10	3.81	3.81	3.67	3.70	3.75	3.43	3.27
Rompetrol	3.13	3.13	3.13	3.80	3.80	3.75	3.80	3.80	3.60	3.39
Gulf - G Force Euro Regular	3.15	3.19	3.29	3.83	3.79	3.69	3.79	3.79	3.49	3.39
Gulf - Regular	3.09	3.13	3.23	3.75	3.65	3.49	3.59	3.59	3.29	3.19
Small Networks Segment	2.89	2.89	2.89	3.60	3.50	3.25	3.20	3.19	3.09	2.99

According to the monitoring results of the 7th month of 2022, in the case of fuel imported from Russia, taking into account the import level and the cost of the customs warehouse in the case of fuel imported from Romania, considering the cost of the customs warehouse, specific companies had a competitive advantage in price and was not reflected in the retail market. Also, the decrease in international oil prices and the tendency the strengthening the national currency rate were observed.

According to the report, in June-July of the current year, the margin on fuel imported from Russia was 78-53 tetri. In the case of Romanian fuel, it was sold to other traders cheaper by 73-94 tetri from the customs warehouse, than it was included in its network.

Following the rules established by the legislation, in case of identifying violation, the sanctions will be determined under the investigation.

<https://bit.ly/3rT5gZy>

THE INVESTIGATION BASED ON THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE INSURANCE/HOSPITAL SECTOR WAS COMPLETED

The case concerned the alleged violation of the Abuse of Dominant Position. As a result of the investigation, the fact of violation of the law has not been confirmed. However, in order to improve the competitive environment, two mandatory recommendations were issued to the ambulatory institutions operating in the country.

<https://bit.ly/3esDLmw>

THE INVESTIGATION IN THE TOURISM SECTOR WAS COMPLETED AND THE FACT OF UNFAIR COMPETITION WAS CONFIRMED

The issue was related to the dispute between two companies in Tbilisi, for tourists, in the city's tour service sector. According to the decision of the Agency, the respondent company was imposed the relevant financial sanction and instructed to eliminate immediately the violation.

<https://bit.ly/3TgdHtD>

JULY-SEPTEMBER | 2022

GEORGIAN NATIONAL COMPETITION AGENCY

MECHANISMS OF THE CONCENTRATION CONTROL SUBJECT TO PRIOR WRITTEN NOTIFICATION

GEORGIAN NATIONAL COMPETITION AGENCY CONDUCTS QUARTERLY MONITORING IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY EXPECTED CONCENTRATIONS SUBJECT TO PRIOR NOTIFICATION, BASED ON THE INFORMATION OF THE NATIONAL AGENCY OF PUBLIC REGISTRY AND THE REVENUE SERVICE. ACCORDING TO THE DATA OF THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2022, 6272 CONCENTRATIONS ARE REGISTERED IN THE COUNTRY.

The Georgian Competition Agency has approved the concentration implemented in the retail market of auto fuel (petrol, diesel). The issue concerns - the acquisition of control (leasing) by "San Petroleum Georgia" over 32 petrol stations owned by 23 undertakings.

<https://bit.ly/3Cs4wQ1>

The Agency approved the concentration of "European University" and "Jo Ann University Hospital". The issue concerns - The concentration was carried out by the undertakings without prior notification to the Agency and without appropriate decision. As a result, the "European University" was fined 15,000 GEL

<https://bit.ly/3EKXAQG>

JULY-SEPTEMBER | 2022

GEORGIAN NATIONAL COMPETITION AGENCY

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FORMATS

The results of the 6 months work of 2022 have been published.

<https://bit.ly/3Vz9zqQ>

Irakli Lekvinadze participated in the session of intergovernmental experts on competition law and policy at the invitation of UNCTAD.

<https://bit.ly/3Mt6T9Y>

In Brussels, at the meeting of the second thematic group of the sub-committee on economic and sectoral cooperation of the Georgia-EU association, the EU side positively evaluated the adoption of the law of Georgia on the protection of consumer rights.

<https://bit.ly/3rRK5vK>

At the meeting held in the Ministry of Economy, fuel market forecasts, competition issues and opportunities to minimize margins were discussed.

<https://bit.ly/3g5soSc>

The first steering committee meeting, in the frame of the Twinning project "Strengthening the capabilities of the Competition Agency of Georgia" was held.

<https://bit.ly/3TjaTMA>

An article by the employees of the Georgian National Competition Agency was published in the newsletter of OECD-GVH RCC.

<https://bit.ly/3emfKhf>

Georgian National Competition Agency and the Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance signed a Memorandum of Cooperation.

<https://bit.ly/3TdmhKI>

Chairman of the Georgian National Competition Agency, Irakli Lekvinadze, presented the Agency's work report at the plenary session of the Parliament of Georgia.

<https://bit.ly/3ECTB8M>

With the support of USAID Georgia HICD Activity, the Georgian National Competition Agency has launched a program for the development of a human resources management system and the establishment of policy management.

Irakli Lekvinadze met with foreign colleagues - the Chairman of the Competition Council of the Republic of Lithuania, Sharunas Keserauskas and Goda Aleksaite - Head of State Consumer Rights Protection Authority of Lithuania, and met with Farrukh Karabaev, Deputy Chairman of the Antimonopoly Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

<https://bit.ly/3CxVYal>

WITH THE FINANCING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, A 2-YEAR TWINNING PROJECT "STRENGTHENING THE CAPABILITIES OF THE COMPETITION AGENCY OF GEORGIA" WAS LAUNCHED, IN THE DIRECTION OF THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION POLICY IN GEORGIA

The project aims to improve the legal status of the consumer in the framework of obligations and regulations taken under the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union. Strengthening GNCA's institutional and human resource capacity in line with EU best practices.

The opening ceremony of the project was attended by representatives of the Parliament of Georgia, the Government, the Diplomatic Corps, international and local counterpart Agencies, and the business sector.

<https://bit.ly/3yLVGeX>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

16-17
November

TBILISI
Georgia

ON NOVEMBER 16-17, 2022, THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF COMPETITION POLICY AND PROTECTION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS WILL BE HELD IN GEORGIA. EVENT JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY THE GEORGIAN NATIONAL COMPETITION AGENCY, THE NATIONAL BANK OF GEORGIA, GEORGIAN NATIONAL ENERGY AND WATER SUPPLY REGULATORY COMMISSION, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND INSURANCE STATE SUPERVISION SERVICE OF GEORGIA.

MORE THAN 10 DELEGATIONS FROM THE COMPETITION AUTHORITIES OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT BODIES, THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE BUSINESS SECTOR WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE.

THE MECHANISMS OF COMPETITION LAW AND THE PROTECTION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS, CASES AND ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY REGULATORY BODIES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE EVENT.

<https://ccc.gov.ge>

JULY-SEPTEMBER | 2022

GEORGIAN NATIONAL COMPETITION AGENCY

IMPORTANT CASES IMPLEMENTED IN THE DIRECTION OF COMPETITION POLICY - INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

Portuguese Competition Authority's Google investigation moves to the European Commission.
<https://bit.ly/3TkVvDM>

AFCA publishes final report on sector inquiry into Austrian fuel market.
<https://bit.ly/3T02cqs>

EU wins WTO case against Turkey's discriminatory practices on pharmaceuticals.
<https://bit.ly/3VILfZk>

Portuguese Competition Authority sanctions three supermarket chains and alcoholic beverage supplier for price fixing.
<https://bit.ly/3yCpVVI>

Federal Economic Competition Commission (COFECE) imposes fines the companies for not notifying a concentration.
<https://bit.ly/3CTDrXB>

State Commission for the Protection of Economic Competition of the Republic of Armenia has revealed a case of anti-competitive agreement in the procurement procedures of asphalt concrete pavement repair works in Yerevan.
<https://bit.ly/3TdPuEo>

The CNMC has fined 6 of the main construction companies in Spain 203.6 million euros for altering the competitive process in infrastructure construction tenders.
<https://bit.ly/3TcHeo2>

Federal Trade Commission returns more than \$1 Million to consumers.
<https://bit.ly/3SZj2pp>

Administrative Council for Economic Defense of Brazil seeks sanctions against bar association for imposing minimum fees.
<https://bit.ly/3VzcnnQ>

The Italian Competition Authority has commenced an investigation against Samsung.
<https://bit.ly/3Tjd6HS>

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<https://bit.ly/37SCd22>

<https://bit.ly/3rZdxvL>

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