NEWSLETTER

THE GEORGIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER AGENCY CONTINUES TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS BY CREATING A FAIR BUSINESS CLIMATE, BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS AND EFFECTIVELY ENFORCING CONSUMER RIGHTS.

ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES

The Georgian Competition and Consumer Agency (GCCA) determined to approve the "Georgian Manufacturers Association" application and gathered an anti-dumping investigation.

- The case concerns the alleged imports of aspartame and sixty salts, originating from the Russian Federation and Iran, into the customs territory of Georgia, at dumping prices, which allegedly cause material damage to the industry.
- During the process of determining the admissibility of the application, the estimated dumping margin of the product imported from Iran was 21%, and the estimated dumping margin of the product imported from Russia was 35. According to the information provided by the applicant, the share of the quantity of the subject of the investigation from Iran and the Russian Federation have increased over the time under consideration.
- Between 2021 and 2023, the share of Russian-imported products in Georgia's market increased from 6% to 42%, and in Iran's case, from 0% to 14%. The market share of the applicant company has also declining, however for Russia it is growing in 2022 compared to 2021 and in Iran between 2022 and 2023.
- https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/ka/113-news_en-1322

IN TERMS OF ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES, THE AGENCY CONCLUDED TWO CASES INVOLVING ALLEGED DUMPING PRICES OF FILTER CIGARETTES IMPORTED FROM ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN, AS WELL AS THREE SECTORAL MONITORING OF LOCAL INDUSTRY IN THE FOOD, FERTILIZER AND CONSTRUCTION SECTORS

APRIL,2008 | 2024 GEORGIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER AGENCY | GCCA

STRATEGIC MARKETS MONITORING

APRIL,2008 | 2024 GEORGIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER AGENCY | GCCA

INVESTIGATION

AN INVESTIGATION HAS COMPLETED INTO THE BAKING SODA PRODUCTION/SALES SECTOR

The GCCA has completed the investigation into the baking soda production/sales sector and established a violation of Article 113 paragraph 1 of the Law of Georgia on Competition. As a result, the defendant was fined over 14,000 GEL. According to the case materials, the defendant company has a dominant position in the market and has the ability to prevent competitors from entering the market. Georgian Competition and Consumer Agency (GCCA) also found that the defendant company's actions are aimed at the assessment of a competitor company's business relations, thereby creating an obstacle to the market entry of competitors.

- https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1300

AT PRESENT, THE GCCA IS INVESTIGATING 8 COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET. THE INVESTIGATION RELATES TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF EXCLUSIVE CONTRACTORS IN THE ELECTRONIC COMMERCE MARKET AND THE CASE OF THE RUSTAVI AUTO MARKET.

IN 2024, THE GCCA DECLARED SIX COMPLAINTS INADMISSIBLE.

APRIL,2008 | 2024 GEORGIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER AGENCY | GCCA

MECHANISMS FOR PROTECTION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS AND OBTAINED RESULTS

CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS IMPLEMENTED WITH PRIOR MANDATORY NOTIFICATION

- According to the information of the Georgian Competition and Consumer Agency (GCCA), in the second quarter of 2024, 4 transactions were implemented with prior mandatory notification.
- According to the detailed data, in 1 case, the joint venture of the parties participating in the registered concentrations did not meet the criteria necessary for the organization of the obligation of prior notification in the part of the turnover in Georgia, and in 3 cases, the parties did not meet the criteria for the exceptions and were exempted from the notification obligation due to exceptions defined in legislation.
- As for 3 cases, according to the data gathered, there was probably an obligation to notify the Agency regarding the concentration in one. As a result, the Agency initiated proceedings against the involved undertakings. The case concerns construction, cement production/distribution and alcohol and other beverage trade sectors.

APRIL,2008 | 2024 GEORGIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER AGENCY | GCCA

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FORMATS

The closing ceremony for the EU-funded TWINNING project took place on May 23. The project was launched on June 1, 2022, and lasted for 24 months. The project aimed to strengthen the Georgian Competition and Consumer Agency's competition authority procedural consulting and technical support to the Agency as part of the project.

- Have developed more than 30 future documents after collective guidance materials based on twinning recommendations. The first documents were approved by the Georgian Competition and Consumer Agency's Supervisory Board on April 25, 2024.
- Around 80 round tables, seminars, and workshops were held with various target audiences. Representatives from government institutions, business associations, and consumer organizations, as well as the general public, were informed about the project's activities, and the results were published in the meantime. Four work-study visits were conducted to Vienna and Athens, which were extremely beneficial in terms of improving the Agency's staff qualifications.

ACCORDING TO THE PROJECT'S EXPERTS, THE ALIGNMENT OF GEORGIAN COMPETITION LEGISLATION WITH EUROPEAN UNION LAW HAS INCREASED TO 70% IN 400 FROM 85% AT THE PROJECT START STAGE. ADDITIONALLY, IN TERMS OF PROTECTING CONSUMER RIGHTS, IT HAS INCREASED FROM 70% TO 90%.

- https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1322

GCCA held a round table for judges
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1499

Working visit of GCCA employees to Vienna https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1498

Irakli Lekvinadze delivered a speech at the ConCom conference on the challenges of the television advertising market https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1497

A round table on competition law enforcement issues was organized with the participation of regulatory bodies
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1496

Irakli Lekvinadze delivered a speech at the Central Asian Competition Forum in Kazakhstan
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1495

The Georgian Competition and Consumer Agency representatives participated in the KG employment forum
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1494

Irakli Lekvinadze provided the report at the sitting of the Sector Economy and Economic Policy Committee of the Parliament
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1493

A representation of the GCCA participated in the webinar arranged by CADE
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1492

The Competition and Consumer Agency participated in the "EU Employment Forum 2024"
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1491

Irakli Lekvinadze held a meeting with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Georgia, Wietse Anselm
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1515

Agency representatives attended the seminar hosted by the OECD-GVH RCC in Chisinau
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1492

The Georgian Competition and Consumer Agency (GCCA) has published its 2023 report
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1490

Representatives of the GCCA met with the eCommerce ASSOCIATION GEORGIA members
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1489

Irakli Lekvinadze, the Chairman of the Competition and Consumer Agency, met with students
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1488

Irakli Lekvinadze presented the Agency's 2023 report to the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1513

The final meeting of the steering committee was held in the frame of the EU-funded Twining Project
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1512

A representation of the international company RBB Economics conducts training for the representatives of the GCCA
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1512

GCCA representatives participated in a seminar organized by the OECD-GVH RCC
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1508

Irakli Lekvinadze attended the conference held by ICPRN in Poland
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1507

Levan Kakosashvili met with State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1506

The representative of the GCCA participated in the conference organized by the Competition Protection Commission of the Republic of Armenia https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1505

The GCCA and the publishing company "Retha C" collaborated to hold a book exhibition and sale
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1504

Irakli Lekvinadze participated in the 14th Local Economic Development Forum in Tbilisi
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1503

The American consulting company LMC initiated a meeting with the Agency's representatives
https://gca.gov.ge/index.php/en-US/news_en-1502

APRIL,2008 | 2024 GEORGIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER AGENCY | GCCA

SIGNIFICANT CASES IMPLEMENTED IN THE DIRECTION OF COMPETITION POLICY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

The Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM) has imposed fines totaling €12,000 euros on five online stores for using fake discounts
https://www.acm.nl/en/publications/acm-has-fined-online-stores-using-fake-discounts

The Autorità' de la concurrence has fined four cartels in the pre-cast concrete products sector. Eleven companies were fined a total of €61.7 million. The cartel lasted from 2011 to 2019. https://www.agcm.it/dettaglio?tipologia=comunicato-stampa&idnews=12811&idarea=1000&idcontenuto=12811&idlang=en

The Italian Competition Authority is the pharmaceutical sector conducted an investigation and established that Leadiant Biosciences and Scientific had taken advantage of the dominant position of the buyer to obtain a higher price for the drug. https://en.agcm.it/en/initiatives/news/news/7958&8&9498

The Italian Competition Authority has fined Meta Platforms Ireland Ltd. and its parent company Meta Platforms Inc. EUR 3.5 million for two unfair commercial practices regarding the creation and management of Facebook and Instagram accounts. https://en.agcm.it/en/initiatives/news/news/9500&9501&9502&9503

Under the obligations imposed by the CMA, Uber Heathrow, the operator of the Uber app, has been forced to implement a series of measures to help consumers better understand the features of the platform and make more informed choices about the service. https://www.gov.uk/cma-cma/news/news/uber-heathrow-operator-commitments-consumers-2024

The Japan Fair Trade Commission ("JFTC") issued cease and desist orders and surcharge payment orders against prohibitions to bidding for school lunch service for junior high schools. https://www.jftc.go.jp/en/pressrelease/2024/May/240524.html

The Autorità' de la concurrence has fined Alphabet Inc., Google LLC, Google Ireland Ltd and Google France (hereafter "Google") €250 million for failing to comply with some of the commitments
https://www.autorite-de-la-concurrence.fr/en/press-release/google-fines-google-eur250-million

Australian Competition&Consumer Commission - HSBC Bank Australia Limited (HSBC) has paid penalties totaling $15,000 after the ACCC issued it with two infringement notices for alleged contraventions of the Consumer Data Rights (CDR) rules.
https://www.accc.gov.au/media-release/hsbc-pays-penalties-for-alleged-breaches-of-consumer-data-right-rules

The Italian Competition Authority has imposed a fine of EUR 10 million jointly and severally on two Amazon group companies for abuse of dominance. https://en.agcm.it/en/initiatives/news/news/9504&9506
https://www.agcm.it/dettaglio?tipologia=comunicato-stampa&idnews=12811&idarea=1000&idcontenuto=12811&idlang=en

15 20
info@gca.gov.ge
www.gca.gov.ge
GCCA / სამომხმარებლო კანონმდებლობა და მონოპოლიაზე ადამიანის ნებაყოფლობა
GCCA / Georgian Competition and Consumer Agency
Address: 70 Davit Agmashenebeli Ave. Tbilisi 0160, Business Center "Green Office"