



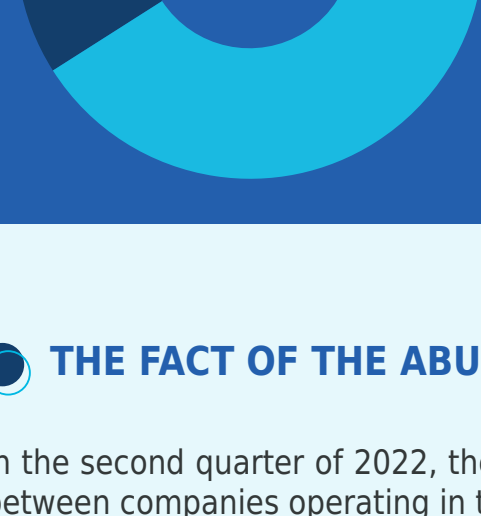
THE GEORGIAN NATIONAL COMPETITION AGENCY IS THE MAIN ORGANIZATION DEFINING AND IMPLEMENTING COMPETITION POLICY.

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



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INVESTIGATION



COMPLETED - 1 INVESTIGATION
ONGOING - 3 INVESTIGATION

THE FACT OF THE ABUSE OF DOMINANT POSITION

In the second quarter of 2022, the Georgian National Competition Agency completed the investigation based on the dispute between companies operating in the insurance/hospital sector. The fact of violation of the law has not been confirmed.

As part of the investigation, the Agency has issued two mandatory recommendations to the ambulatory institutions operating in the country for consideration to improve the competitive environment.

<https://bit.ly/3AUU701>

INADMISSIBILITY OF DISTORTION OF COMPETITION BY THE STATE AUTHORITIES

In April 2022, The Georgian National Competition Agency has started an investigation on the fact of the alleged violation by the Georgian Accreditation Center - The Unified National Body of Accreditation.

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

THE FACT OF A POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF THE UNFAIR COMPETITION

During the mentioned period, the Agency started the investigation on the fact of the alleged violation of unfair competition, in the dispute of the companies operating in the field of the tourist services market, which concerned the fact of unfair using company trademarks and appearance.

<https://bit.ly/3zbx6os>

1 investigation is an ongoing process in the translation sector- in the direction of abuse of dominant position and detection of concerted practice.



MARKET MONITORING

AUTO FUEL MARKET MONITORING

According to the results, in April - several large companies had the resources to reduce prices, which is evidenced by cheap imports from European and non-European countries, increased price margins, especially for non-European fuels, and the trend of price reduction in the importing countries. (For example, Romania and Bulgaria).

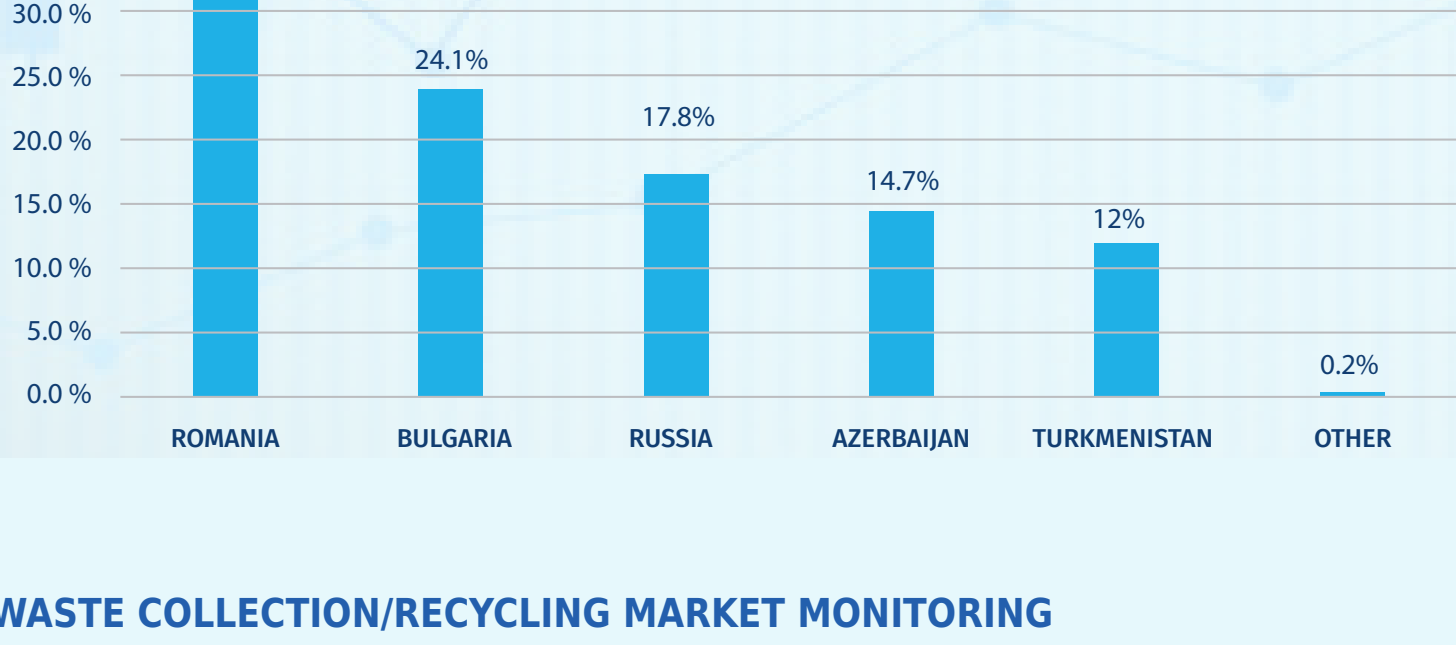
In May, in the retail market of Georgia, both in the case of large companies and in the small segment, a decrease in fuel prices was observed. For different types of fuel - in the area of 5-36 tetri for large companies and 25-30 tetri for small companies. Also, the price difference was observed between small and large chains for the same type of fuel, which was in the range of 20-50 tetri.

The Agency continues to actively monitor the fuel market.

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

IRAKLI LEKVINADZE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GNCA, INTRODUCED A REPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF GEORGIA AND THE MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL, ON THE DATA OF THE AUTO FUEL MARKET FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY-APRIL 2022.

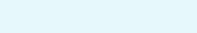
IMPORT OF AUTO FUEL ACCORDING TO EXPORTING COUNTRIES



GLASS WASTE COLLECTION/RECYCLING MARKET MONITORING

During the reporting period, the Agency started monitoring the glass waste collection/recycling market. The purpose of the monitoring is to analyze/investigate the general situation in the Georgian commodity and service markets, the current key factors, the existing barriers, and assess the competitive environment in the context of competition.

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



CONCENTRATION CONTROL SUBJECT TO PRIOR WRITTEN NOTIFICATION

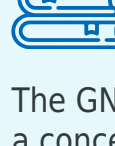
GEORGIAN NATIONAL COMPETITION AGENCY CONDUCTS QUARTERLY MONITORING IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY EXPECTED CONCENTRATIONS SUBJECT TO PRIOR NOTIFICATION, BASED ON THE INFORMATION OF THE NATIONAL AGENCY OF PUBLIC REGISTRY AND THE REVENUE SERVICE. ACCORDING TO THE DATA FOR 6 MONTHS OF 2022, 9123 CONCENTRATIONS ARE REGISTERED IN THE COUNTRY.



CONCENTRATION - IN THE MEDICAL SECTOR

In the second quarter of 2022, the National Competition Agency approved the acquisition of 100% of the shares of "Amtel Hospital First Clinic" by "Geo Hospitals".

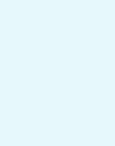
<https://bit.ly/3o8NMag>



CONCENTRATION - IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

In the construction sector, the National Competition Agency has approved the acquisition of 50% share of "GTC Trading" by "Anagi" company.

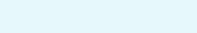
<https://bit.ly/3aLiiQ>



CONCENTRATION - IN THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR

The GNCA imposed a fine on the "European University" in the amount of 15,000 GEL due to the non-submitted notification of a concentration. In accordance with the competition law, the implemented concentration required prior written notification to the Agency. The Agency started administrative proceedings regarding the concentration.

<https://bit.ly/3B3mjEm>



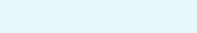
THE LAW OF GEORGIA ON THE PROTECTION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS CAME INTO FORCE ON JUNE 1, 2022, AND THE AGENCY WILL START CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS ON NOVEMBER 1 OF THIS YEAR.

IN THE PERIOD UNTIL NOVEMBER, THE AGENCY WILL PROVIDE:

- 1 THE FORMATION OF THE RELEVANT DEPARTMENT
- 2 BY-LAW WILL BE DRAFTED ON THE RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE COMPLAINTS
- 3 MEETINGS WITH THE BUSINESS SECTOR AND CONSUMERS FROM SEPTEMBER

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

ON JUNE 1, THE AGENCY STARTED A 2-YEAR TWINNING PROJECT, WHICH FOCUSES ON COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS. WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE PROJECT, CONSULTATIONS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT WILL BE PROVIDED BY A TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS FROM THE LITHUANIAN AND THE AUSTRIAN COMPETITION AUTHORITIES.



LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In West Georgia, workshops were held with the business sector, at the initiative of the Georgian National Competition Agency and organized by the Association Facilitation Agreement (AA Facility) between Georgia and the European Union and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

<https://bit.ly/3AW9sh8>

The National Competition Agency was awarded on behalf of the European Business Association and the European Union.

<https://bit.ly/3o9fbse>

Irakli Lekvinadze participated in the 70th annual spring conference of the American Bar Association (ABA) in Washington.

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

Representatives of the Agency participated in the seminar on the "Introductory Seminar for Young Staff - Competition law principles and procedures" organized by the OECD-GVH RCC in Budapest.

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

Irakli Lekvinadze introduced the 2021 annual report on the activity of the Agency at the sittings of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee Sector Economy and Economic Policy Committee.

<https://bit.ly/3o5SEwn>

The chairman of the Agency, Irakli Lekvinadze, attended the 21st International Conference on Competition, organized by the Bundeskartellamt of the Federal Republic of Germany and ICN, in Berlin.

<https://bit.ly/3z837xj>

A Memorandum of cooperation has been signed between the Georgian National Competition Agency and the Investigation Service of the Ministry of Finance.

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

Irakli Lekvinadze, Chairman of the Georgian National Competition Agency, delivered a speech at the event related to the Investigation Day.

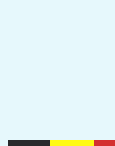
<https://bit.ly/3AVKPRV>

Levan Kalandadze, the First Deputy Chairman of the Agency, participated in the seminar organized by the OECD-GVH RCC.

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



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



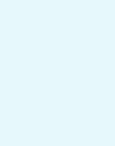
The Italian Competition Authority fined the nine companies for approximately 5 million euro in total, because of aggressive and misleading commercial practices.

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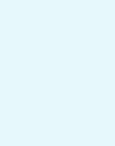
The Italian Competition Authority following the extraordinary increase in petrol and diesel prices started an investigation, as well as the Authority notified detailed requests for information to leading oil companies, with the assistance of the Guardia di Finanza (Italian Financial Police). An investigation has been launched as the possible violation of the laws on abuse of dominant position and anti-competitive agreements.

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



The Competition College of the Belgian Competition Authority imposed a fine of 36 million euros for four cigarette manufacturers who restricted competition. The College ruled that these companies had been receiving confidential commercially sensitive information from their customers.

<https://bit.ly/3yQy9Ku>



The Austrian Federal Competition Authority (AFCA) has launched a fuel market investigation to analyze the price and margin development at filling stations and verify the quality of competition. It is mentioned on the website of the Authority, that the focus will be on the developments in crude oil prices, fuel prices, refineries' costs and production quantities and etc.

<https://bit.ly/3uV8GNz>



According to the decision of the **State Commission for the Protection of Economic Competition of the Republic of Armenia**, as a result of the investigation, a fine was imposed on the 3 large companies in the field of egg sales for abuse of dominant position. The amount of the fine was 42.6 million drams. According to the decision of the Agency, currently, there is an excess amount of eggs on the market, which reduced the number of sales and caused a decrease in prices. At this stage, the commission is considering the issue together with the Ministry of Economy and farmers in the direction of processing and export.

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



The **BUNDESKARTELLAMT** has initiated an investigation at the refinery and wholesale level in order to study the price of oil. According to the position of the Agency, after the Russia-Ukraine war, crude oil prices, refinery sales prices and gas station prices have diverged significantly.

<https://bit.ly/3Pub19W>



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

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