



**BULGARIAN COMMISSION
ON PROTECTION OF COMPETITION**



**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

SOFIA COMPETITION FORUM

FIRST MEETING OF THE COMPETITION AUTHORITIES OF THE SOFIA COMPETITION FORUM

Sofia, Bulgaria - 12 November 2012

THE SOFIA STATEMENT

We, the Albanian, Bosnian and Herzegovinian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Kosovo, Macedonian, Montenegrin, and Serbian competition authorities met in Sofia on 12 November 2012 at the invitation of the Commission on Protection of Competition of the Republic of Bulgaria and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

We, the founding members of the Sofia Competition Forum (SCF)

Recognize that close bilateral and regional cooperation in the field of competition protection enhances economic development, stability and prosperity in the region;

Emphasize the lasting commitment to cooperation as a necessary condition for the overall development of competition in the region;

Acknowledge that the Sofia Competition Forum builds on existing international fora, such as UNCTAD, OECD, ICN, as well as on regional fora, and aims to provide the competition authorities of the region an informal platform to exchange information and expertise in the field of competition policy;

Welcome this meeting as an important opportunity to exchange information and experience, to discuss major issues on competition legislation and policy.

Bearing this in mind, we have agreed to:

Intensify and deepen our cooperation in the framework of the Sofia Competition Forum;

Affirm our commitment and dedication to the effective enforcement of competition rules in the region;

Establish and maintain regular contacts at a working level between competition agencies;

Establish an electronic data bank for the storage, retrieval and sharing of knowledge, including manuals, guidelines and educational materials;

Continue the existing high-level dialogue between the competition authorities in the interest of the region;

As a result, we, the competition authorities of the Sofia Competition Forum:

Declare our commitment to support in its activities the regional structures and more particularly the Sofia Competition Forum;

Invite the Bulgarian Commission on Protection of Competition and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to:

- (i) continue convening annual meetings of the competition authorities of the region that would allow us to update each other on recent and significant issues in the field of competition and to discuss topics of common interest and concern;

- (ii) co-organize with interested competition agencies workshops and seminars between annual meetings;

Invite the SCF members to participate actively in the work of the Forum and to volunteer for organizing workshops and seminars.

Adopted in Sofia on 12 November 2012