

The International Comparative Legal Guide to: Enforcement of Competition Law 2009

A practical insight to cross-border enforcement regulation



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1 National Competition Bodies

- 1.1 Which authorities are charged with enforcing competition laws in Albania? If more than one, please describe the division of responsibilities between the different authorities.

Law 9121 dated 28.07.2003 “On protection of competition” (“Law on Competition” or the “Law”) governs market competition matters in Albania. The enforcement of competition law in Albania is competence of the Albanian Competition Authority (the “Competition Authority” or the “Authority”) which operates as an independent public authority. The Authority consists of the ‘Competition Commission’ which is the ‘decision-making body’ and the ‘Secretariat’ with ‘technical and investigation’ duties. The Authority is entitled to survey the market conditions, apply the competition rules and issue further secondary regulations for purposes of implementation of the Law. The Authority evaluates and authorises or prohibits transactions which give rise to concentrations between undertakings in relation to the possible creation or strengthening of a dominant position in the market. The Authority surveys market operators already having a dominant position in the market in order to avoid any possible abuses by such operators. In addition it grants exemptions for prohibited horizontal and/or vertical agreements. The Authority issues recommendations to public institutions in relation to matters dealing with competition issues as well as opinions, evaluations and proposals on draft laws which would affect any competition issues.

- 1.2 Provide details about any bodies having responsibility for enforcing competition laws in relation to specific sectors.

The Albanian Competition Authority is the only body responsible for the enforcement of competition laws in all sectors. There are no concurrent competition enforcement bodies in Albania.

- 1.3 How does/do the competition authority/authorities determine which cases to investigate, and which of those to prioritise in Albania?

The Authority supervises and undertakes economic evaluations of different market structures in order to identify any anticompetitive conducts since in their early stage. The Authority undertakes sector-based studies, by performing periodic collection and assessment of information. This enables the Authority to obtain a general view of the competitive conditions of different market sectors. To this end the Authority may evaluate if there are any

reasonable grounds that would lead to the launch of sector-based investigation procedures (*Competition Authority, “The Annual Report 2008 and Main Goals for 2009”, III.2.4, pp.11*).

The Authority may initiate general investigations in a specific sector of the economy, *ex officio* and/or upon proposal of the Parliament and/or by initiative of any sector-based regulatory institutions. The investigations may be launched provided that there are indications, likewise inflexibility of the prices that would limit or distort competition in the market (article 41).

The Authority upon its own initiative, or request of interested enterprises or third parties’ claims, may undertake a ‘preliminary investigation procedure’. Should the Authority believe that there are reasonable grounds that would lead to limitation or distortion of the competition, it may launch the ‘in-depth investigation procedure’ (articles 42 and 43).

2 Substantive Competition Law Provisions

- 2.1 Please set out the substantive competition law provisions which the competition authorities enforce, including any relevant criminal provisions.

The Authority may issue secondary rules (regulations and guidelines) for the implementation of the Law. The Law provides for the prohibition of all the agreements between undertakings or association of undertakings which obstruct, limit or distort the free competition in the market (article 4) as well as every abuse of the dominant position of the undertakings in the market (article 9).

The undertakings engaged in concentrations by acquisitions of control or merger transactions, should submit a notification to the Authority provided that they meet the threshold requirements foreseen by the Law. The Authority will check the market share of the undertaking to the concentration in order to assess possible creation or strength of a dominant position in the market.

If the Authority, after performing its own evaluations observes that there are obstacles, limitation or distortion of the free competition in the market (article 4) as well as there is an abuse of the dominant position of the undertakings in the market (article 9), the Authority may open investigation procedures on specific conducts of the market operators.

- 2.2 Are there any provisions which apply to specific sectors only? If so, please provide details.

There are no provisions that would apply to specific sectors only. The Law sets out the general provisions on competition issues that

may arise in relation to any kind of sector.

3 Initiation of Investigations

- 3.1 Is it possible for parties to approach the competition authorities to obtain prior approval of a proposed agreement/course of action?**

According to the “Regulation on the application of the procedures for concentration of enterprises” (“*The Regulation on Concentrations*”) it is possible for every undertaking to formally approach the Authority by informing it on the intention to enter in an agreement or transaction and to ask its formal opinion whether the agreement or transaction may constitute a concentration subject to notification procedures under the Law (article 6 of the Regulation).

Anyhow, in practice it is possible for any interested party to ask the officers of the Authority some guidance or advice aiming to facilitate the self-assessment of the party in relation to possible competition issues which may arise by any transaction, agreement or conduct. This approach is informal and the guidance or advice is not binding.

- 3.2 Is there a formal procedure for complaints to be made to the competition authorities? If so, please provide details.**

The Law provides that interested third parties may submit a complaint to the Authority asking for the opening of a preliminary investigation procedure (article 42).

Further more the “*Regulation on the functioning of the Competition Authority*” as amended, provides for the possibility for any interested party to submit to the Authority oral or written claims either by courier or email. The anonymous claims are registered and evaluated as well. The Authority will evaluate if the issue, object of the claim, is under its competence.

Within 15 days from the receipt of the claim, the Authority notifies the claiming party on the relevant ongoing administrative proceeding. After the conclusion of the procedure, the Authority notifies the claiming party on the results of the administrative proceeding (article 26/1- 3 of the Regulation).

The parties may submit their claims either by their own initiative or upon invitation of the Authority anytime the later announces the filing of a notification procedure (article 52).

- 3.3 What proportion of investigations occurs as a result of a third party complaint and what proportion occurs as a result of the competition authority’s own investigations?**

There are no official statistics on the proportion of the investigations initiated as a result of the third party complaint or by Authority’s own initiative.

Pursuant to the “The Annual Report for 2008 and Main Goals for 2009” the most important objectives for the next coming years will be the further awareness of the entrepreneurs, stakeholders and of the consumers on the importance of the competition protection rules as well as they participation in the process of implementation of these rules (*Competition Authority, “The Annual Report for 2008 and Main Goals for 2009”, Para. VI, pp.28*).

4 Procedures Including Powers of Investigation

- 4.1 Please summarise the key stages in the investigation process that is, from its commencement to a decision being reached, providing an indicative time line, if possible.**

The investigation proceeding consists of a preliminary investigation phase initiated by the Authority or by request of interested enterprises or claim of third parties. After the preliminary investigation phase, if there are indications of infringements, an in-depth investigation proceeding will follow. The decision to open an in-depth proceeding is published in the Official Bulletin of the Authority by giving to third parties the possibility to intervene. In case the Authority observes any infringement of the Law the Authority issues a decision on the immediate ceasing of these infringements by the parties and may impose respective fines. In addition, the Authority may demand to the parties to take the appropriate measures of the case including structural measures. The Law does not provide any time line for the investigation procedures.

- 4.2 Can the competition authority require parties which have information relevant to its investigation to produce information and/or documents?**

Each party under investigation or any other third party who is in possession of information in relation to the specific case is obliged to provide this information each time it is requested by the Authority. If necessary, the Authority may request the information by issuing a decision in this respect. According to the Law, central or local public administration bodies or other public institutions should cooperate and provide the Authority with the useful information (articles 33 and 34).

- 4.3 Does the competition authority have power to enter the premises (both business and otherwise) of parties implicated in an investigation? If so, please describe those powers and the extent, if any, of the involvement of national courts in the exercise of those powers?**

The officers of the Secretariat should be authorised in writing by the Commission in order to perform inspections. They are entitled to enter the undertaking premises, access the transport vehicles and the area of the place of business of the parties under investigation, may consult the hard or soft copies of the books, registers and documents relevant to the activity, may collect or copy books, registers or documents, may seal any business premises, books, registers of the activity, no longer than 72 hours, if required, and may ask representatives or employees of the party under inspection about any explanations on facts and documents (article 36). Extension of the above mentioned period is subject to court decision and may not exceed 6 months.

Inspection of places other than those related to the activity (domicile; other premises similar to the domicile) is done upon authorisation granted by the competent Court (article 37).

- 4.4 Does the competition authority have the power to undertake interviews with the parties in the course of searches being undertaken or otherwise?**

The Law provides for the possibility of the parties under investigation to intervene in a hearing before the Authority makes a

decision (article 39).

The Authority may invite other third parties or experts engaged for the specific case (article 15 of the “*Regulation on the functioning of the Competition Authority*”, as amended).

4.5 Can the competition authorities remove original/copy documents as the result of a search being undertaken?

When entering business or domestic premises with a proper authorisation released in accordance with the Law provisions, the officers may collect and confiscate every object considered as a useful evidence for any matter relevant to the investigation. The seizure may not last more than 72 hours. Extension of such period is done upon court decision for a period not exceeding 6 months. The party involved should be promptly notified in any case (article 38).

4.6 Can the competition authorities take electronic copies of data held on the computer systems at the inspected premises/off-site?

As explained above, the Authority may seize every object considered as a useful evidence for any matter relevant to the investigation.

4.7 Does the competition authority have any other investigative powers, including surveillance powers?

The Authority has the powers foreseen by articles 36, 37, 38 and 39 of the Law as explained in questions 4.3 - 4.6.

4.8 What opportunity does the party accused of anti-competitive conduct have to hear the case against it and to submit its response?

The Law provides for the possibility of the parties under investigation to intervene in a hearing before the Authority takes a decision (article 39).

4.9 How are the rights of the defence respected throughout the investigation?

The Authority should notify to the party under investigation the opening of the ‘in-depth investigation proceeding’. The party has the right to intervene in a hearing before the Authority takes a decision (article 39).

In case of seizure of evidences during inspections, the interested party has the right of appeal in front of the Court.

4.10 What rights do complainants have during an investigation?

The Authority shall within 24 hours from the delivery of the request or claim by the interested parties, assign it to the relevant department with the Authority for processing. The complainants shall be informed on whether the matter is taken forward within 15 days from the day the complaint was submitted to the Authority.

In conclusion of the administrative proceedings of the claim or request, the Authority notifies the claiming or requesting party on the results.

The Authority may invite other third parties or experts engaged for the specific case to participate in the hearings (article 15 of the “*Regulation on the functioning of the Competition Authority*”, as amended).

Further, civil actions may be initiated in front of District Court of Tirana by any party affected by anti-competitive conduct of other parties. These actions may be initiated independently to a proceeding commenced by the Authority.

4.11 What rights, if any, do third parties (other than the complainant and alleged infringers) have in relation to an investigation?

The Authority may invite other third parties or experts engaged for the specific case to participate in the hearings (article 15 of the “*Regulation on the functioning of the Competition Authority*”, as amended).

5 Interim Measures

5.1 In the case of a suspected competition infringement, does the competition authority have powers in relation to interim measures? If so, please describe.

The Competition Commission, upon its initiative or further to a request of an interested party, may at any time of the investigation procedure, adopt interim measures. Such measures should be justified by an emergency, risk of serious and irreparable harm to the competition and eventual infringements to article 4 (“Prohibition of restrictive agreements”) and article 9 (“Abuse of dominant Position”) of the Law.

The interim measures would consist of ordering the concerned undertaking to enter into or terminate specific contractual relationships, give licenses, or to act or omit from acting in a certain way. The decision of adoption of interim measures is taken for a specific time and may be postponed if necessary.

In case of infringement to concentration rules (e.g. realisation of the concentration before clearance), the Commission may adopt interim measures for non restriction of the effective competition.

6 Time Limits

6.1 Are there any time limits which restrict the competition authority’s ability to bring enforcement proceedings and/or impose sanctions?

The Law does not indicate any time limit which would restrict the Competition Authority’s ability to commence investigations in case of eventual infringements to article 4 and article 9 of the Law or to commencement of investigations related to the concentrations control (in lack of a notification of the concentration from the parties).

As regards the sanctions, the Law provides for a time limit only for fines imposed to individuals, who by wilful misconduct or negligence conduct or cooperate to actions mentioned in article 74/1 and 75/1 of the Law. Concretely, the fines are subject to a prescription period of 3 years for infringements mentioned in article 74/1 of the Law and 5 years for those indicated in article 75/2 of the Law.

7 Co-operation

7.1 Does the competition authority in Albania belong to a supra-national competition network? If so, please provide details

Albanian Competition Authority is member of the International

Competition Network (ICN) and also has cooperation relationships with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Technical Assistance Information Exchange Unit (TAIEX) and homologue competition authorities in Europe, USA, etc.

7.2 For what purposes, if any, can any information received by the competition authority from such networks be used in national competition law enforcement?

Membership of the International Competition Network enables the Albanian Competition Authority to participate in different activities organised from ICN covering competition matters. The purpose of such cooperation and membership relates to the exchange of experiences with the competition authorities of other countries and also to the preparation and integration of competition standards and regulations.

Furthermore, the Competition Authority may, under a bilateral or multilateral agreement, communicate information or documents it holds or receives, to relevant structure of the Commission of European Communities or to authorities of other States exercising similar functions, subject to reciprocity and on the conditions that the competent foreign authority is subject to trade secrecy rules with the same guaranties as in Albania. Also, it may conduct investigation upon request of foreign authorities exercising similar functions and under reciprocity condition.

Where Competition Authority and competition authorities of other States, which have reached a bilateral or multilateral agreement between them, have received a complaint or are acting on their own initiative under the Competition Law against the same infringement, the fact that one authority is dealing with the case may constitute a sufficient ground for the other authorities to suspend the proceedings or reject the complaint.

8 Leniency

8.1 Does the competition authority in Albania operate a leniency programme? If so, please provide details.

Fines and leniency is governed by the Law and Regulation “*On Fines and Leniency*” as approved by the Authority.

According to this Regulation the Competition Commission will grant to an undertaking immunity from any fine, which would otherwise have been imposed if: (a) the undertaking is the first to submit evidence which in the Commission’s view may enable it to adopt a decision, in case of infringement of article 4 and article 9 of the Law; or (b) the undertaking is the first to submit evidence which in the Authority’s view may enable it to find an infringement of article 4 of the Law (Section A, article 9 of the said Regulation).

Immunity pursuant to the above letter (a) will only be granted on the condition that the Commission did not have, at the time of the submission, sufficient evidence to adopt a decision to carry out an investigation in case of infringements of article 4 and article 9 of the Law. Immunity pursuant to letter (b) will only be granted if the Commission did not have, at the time of the submission, sufficient evidence to find an infringement of article 4 of the competition law **and** that no undertaking has been granted conditional immunity from fines under the above letter (a) in connection with the alleged cartel.

Furthermore, an undertaking will qualify for immunity if (i) cooperates fully, on a continuous basis and expeditiously throughout the Authority’s administrative procedure and provides the Authority with all evidence that comes into its possession or is available to it relating to the suspected infringement; (ii)

discontinue from its involvement in the suspected infringement no later than the time at which it submits evidence under the abovementioned letter (a) and (b), as appropriate and (iii) did not take steps to persuade other undertakings to participate in the infringement.

Any undertaking may submit a request in writing to the Authority to benefit from immunity to fines.

Undertakings that do not meet the conditions under Section A of the Regulation, may be eligible to benefit from a reduction of any fine that would otherwise have been imposed in case of infringement of article 4 of the Law. In such case, it must provide to the Authority evidence of the suspected infringement which represents significant added value to evidences already in the Authority’s possession and must discontinue its involvement in the suspected infringement no later than the time at which it submits the evidence (Section B of the Regulation).

9 Decisions and Penalties

9.1 What final decisions are available to the competition authority in relation to the alleged anti-competitive conduct?

Where Commission finds out that an infringement to article 4 and article 9 of the Law exists (prohibited agreements and abuse of dominant position respectively), its final decision may consist of: (i) termination of the infringement (such as cancellation of the prohibited agreement or bring to an end the abusive practise); and (ii) fines. Additionally, the Commission may impose to the concerned undertakings any remedies such as those of a structural nature (which are decided in case measures to act or omit from acting in a specified way are not efficient).

In case of infringements to article 10 and article 14 of the Competition Law (obligation to notify the concentration and realise the concentration if and after cleared), the Commission’s decision will be to bring to an end the realisation of the concentration, state the invalidity of the concentration and impose fines.

The Commission decisions taken for the abovementioned infringements shall be published in the Authority’s Official Bulletin.

9.2 What sanctions for competition law breaches on companies and/or individuals are available in your jurisdiction?

The Law provides for fines for non serious infringements (e.g. supply of incorrect, incomplete or misleading information; incomplete form of the required books or other business records; refuse to answer to a question or give an incorrect, incomplete or misleading answer, etc.) and fines for serious infringements (e.g. infringement to article 4 - prohibited agreement, article 9 - abuse with dominant position, article 14 - realisation of a concentration without notification, or clearance or before clearance). In the first case, the Commission, by a decision, imposes on undertakings fines up to 1% of the total turnover of the preceding business year, while in case of serious infringements the Commission may impose fines on undertakings from 2% to 10% of the total turnover of the preceding business year of each of the undertakings participating in the infringement. In fixing the amount of the fine, it should be considered both the gravity and the duration of the infringement. In assessing the gravity of the infringement, it must be taken into account nature, actual impact on the market, where this can be measured, of the infringement and the size of the relevant geographic market.

The Authority may also, upon its decision, impose on undertakings periodic penalty payments not exceeding 5% of the average daily turnover of the preceding business year, which is calculated from the date the decision has been taken (e.g. to put an end to an infringement of article 4 and 9; to comply with a decision ordering interim measures; to comply with a commitment made binding; etc.).

The Commission may impose fines to individuals in case of competition infringements, which amount up to ALL 5 million (approx. EUR 38,000).

9.3 What sanctions, if any, can be imposed by the competition authority on companies and/or individuals for non-cooperation/interference with the investigation?

The Commission imposes on undertakings fines amounting up to 1% of the total turnover of the proceeding business year in case such undertakings refuse to answer to a question during an inspection procedure and, also, in case of providing incorrect, incomplete and misleading answers or impede such inspection.

Generally, refusal to cooperate or attempt to obstruct the Competition Authority in carrying out its investigations is considered as aggravating circumstance which implies an increase of the basic amount of the fine imposed for other infringements (e.g. infringement to article 4 and article 9). The Law provides for other aggravating circumstances such as repeated infringement of the same type by the same undertaking(s); role of leader, or instigator of the infringement; retaliatory measures against other undertakings with a view to enforcing practices which constitute an infringement; need to increase the penalty in order to exceed the amount of gains improperly made as a result of the infringement when it is objectively possible to estimate that amount, etc.

10 Commitments

10.1 Is the competition authority in Albania empowered to accept commitments from the parties in the event of a suspected competition law infringement?

The Competition Authority is empowered to accept commitments from the undertakings during the preliminary and in-depth procedures in case of concentration of undertakings. The concerned undertakings may propose and present commitments (ex. taking measures in order to eliminate signs of creating or strengthening the dominant position) to the Authority no later than one month from the date of notification receipt in case of preliminary procedures, and two months in case of in-depth procedures.

10.2 In what circumstances can such commitments be accepted by the competition authority?

The Competition Authority is not bound from the proposal of commitments; their acceptance is in the discretion of the Authority.

10.3 What impact do such commitments have on the investigation?

Where the undertakings concerned propose commitments, the Competition Commission may, by a decision, make those commitments binding on the undertakings. The Competition Commission may revoke or amend its decisions, or re-open the investigation procedure when: (i) one or some of the facts that has served as a basis of taking the decision has changed; (ii) the parties

contravene to a commitment indicated in the decision; and (iii) the decision is based on incorrect information or was obtained by means of deceit.

11 Appeals

11.1 During an investigation, can a party which is concerned by a decision, act or omission of the competition authority appeal to another body? If so, please provide details of the relevant appeal body and the appeal process, including the rules on standing, possible grounds for appeal and any time limits.

According to the Law, appeals against decisions of the Competition Authority can be made nearby the District Court of Tirana, within 30 days from notification of the decision. In order for the appeal to be accepted, the act of the Competition Authority should have the nature of an administrative act. The subject of the appeals can be either final decisions or decisions taken during an investigation procedure from the Competition Authority. During the investigation procedures, appeals can be made against decisions such as adoption of interim measures or seizure carried out from the officers of the Competition Authority. To be noted that the appeal against the decision of the Competition Authority on clearance of the concentration and interim measures does not suspend, *per se*, the enforcement of these decisions. Nevertheless, Tirana District Court may decide to suspend in whole or part these decisions.

Under a recent decision of Tirana Appeal Court the appeal against the Competition Authority decision to open an investigation procedure was refused based on the argument that such decision is not an administrative act.

11.2 Once a final infringement decision and/or a remedies decision, has been made by the competition authority, can a party which is concerned by the decision appeal to another body? If so, please provide details of the relevant appeal body and the appeal process, including the rules on standing, possible grounds for appeal and any time limits.

As mentioned in question 11.1 above, appeals against a final decision of the Competition Authority can be made nearby the Court of Tirana District, within 30 days from the notification of the decision, and afterwards nearby Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

To be noted that the appeal against the decision of the Competition Authority on clearance of the concentration and interim measures does not suspend, *per se*, the enforcement of these decisions. Nevertheless, Tirana District Court may decide to suspend in whole or part these decisions.

12 Wider Judicial Scrutiny

12.1 What wider involvement, if any, do national judicial bodies have in the competition enforcement procedure (for example, do they have a review role or is their agreement needed to implement the competition/anti-trust sanctions)?

Please refer to question 4.3 above.

12.2 What input, if any, can the national and/or international competition/anti-trust enforcement bodies have in competition actions before the national courts?

The Law does not indicate any input that the Competition Authority

may have in a judiciary process where a person has filed a lawsuit as a consequence of damages resulting from infringement made by another person to article 4 or article 9 of the Law. Such lawsuit may be filed although a procedure has been initiated from the Competition Authority.

On the other hand, when the defendant begins a procedure with the Competition Authority seeking the exemption of an agreement from the prohibition of article 4 of the Law, the court should decide to suspend the court proceedings until the Authority adopts its decision.

13 Private Enforcement

13.1 Can third parties bring private claims to enforce competition law in the national courts? If so, please provide details.

A person impeded in its activity, by a prohibited agreement or by an abusive dominant position, may initiate an action in court (with Tirana District Court) and request (a) elimination or prevention of the competition restricting practice, which risks to be carried out or is carried out in violation with article 4 or article 9 of the Law and (b) damages relief, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Albanian Civil Code.

In order to ensure elimination or prevention of competition impediments, Tirana District Court may decide (i) the nullity of contracts (in whole or in part), with a retroactive effect; (ii) order the undertaking which is at the origin of the impediment, to enter into contractual relationship with the impeded undertaking, under the common commercial conditions.

13.2 Have there been any successful claims for damages or other remedies arising out of competition law infringements?

To the best of our knowledge, there is no final Albanian court decision ruling on claims for damages or other remedies arising out from Competition Law infringements.

14 Miscellaneous

14.1 Is anti-competitive conduct outside Albania covered by the national competition rules?

The Law applies to all undertakings and associations of undertakings, which directly or indirectly may have an influence in the Albanian market and that conduct activities in the territory of the Republic of Albania or abroad when the consequences of these activities are reflected in the domestic market.

14.2 Please set out the approach adopted by the national competition authority and national courts in Albania in relation to legal professional privilege.

To the best of our knowledge, the legal professional privilege matter has not been raised from the Competition Authority so far and is not subject to a consolidated judiciary practice.

Pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Code, the investigated undertakings may refuse to cooperate with the Competition Authority in case such cooperation will cause an infringement to the professional secrecy, such as the legal professional privilege. Additionally, under the Law on Legal Profession in Albania, the lawyers/attorneys are not allowed to disclose information received from the person they represent or defend or from documents received and made available from the latest in the context of its professional assignment/services.

14.3 Please provide, in no more than 300 words, any other information of interest in relation to Albania in relation to matters not covered by the above questions.

The targets of the Competition Authority for the year 2009 may be summarised as follows: (i) increment of professionalism and expertise of the technical staff of the Competition Authority; (ii) increase of public acknowledgment on benefits deriving from a healthy competition in the market; (iii) growth of advocacy and culture of competition; and (iv) cooperation with all market players, public institutions and consumer protection bodies. Additionally, the Competition Authority has recently proposed amendments to the current Law aiming to harmonise the Albanian competition legislation with the *acquis communautaire*. The draft amendments have been forwarded to groups of interests for their views and comments.



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Ms. Leka is a senior legal manager at Boga & Associates, which she joined in 1997. She has acquired sound experience in Competition law, Commercial law, Banking and Finance, Intellectual Property law, Mergers and Acquisitions, Privatisations, Litigation etc. She has managed a variety of finance transactions involving corporate governance issues and diligences, secured loan facilities and security packages with respect to commercial property and assignment of contractual interests.

She has advised clients regarding legal and regulatory framework on competition, anti trust issues, trademarks and other issues related to intellectual property rights.

Ms. Leka graduated from University of Tirana, Albania (1996), Faculty of Law and received a Practice Diploma in International Intellectual Property Law from The College of Law of England and Wales (2006). She is also a Lecturer of "Albanian Business and Labor Law" at University of New York in Tirana (2004-present). Ms. Leka is a member of the Tirana Bar. She is an Albanian native and has excellent knowledge of English and Italian.



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Ms. Jonida Skendaj is a manager at Boga & Associates, which she joined in 2004. She has excellent knowledge in competition legislation and valuable experience by following several cases of merger notifications with the Albanian Competition Authority.

Ms. Skendaj was involved in a number of legal advices regarding competition issues in Albania rendered to national and international entities. She has also gathered experience in tax and commercial legislation, while assisting several legal and tax due diligence assignments for international clients who considered investing in Albania in industrial sector.

Ms. Skendaj graduated from Faculty of Law, Maitrise Droit des Affaires, (Business Law), Paris X Nanterre, France, where she also pursued her post-graduation studies in D.E.A. Droit des Affaires (degree of Master in Business Law). She is an Albanian native and has excellent knowledge of French, English and Italian.

BOGA & ASSOCIATES

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