

**European Competition Day**  
**Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria**  
**31 May 2018**

**PRACTICAL NOTE**

The European Competition Day will take place on 31 May 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Commission on Protection of Competition organises European Competition Day on 31 May 2018 in Sofia on the occasion of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The event will be dedicated to key legislative developments in the European competition law such as the Damages Directive and the future ECN+ Directive which will have the determining influence on the enforcement of competition rules in the forthcoming years. Attention will be also paid to cases that arise before the competition authorities in the energy sector. More specifically, the European Competition Day will be organised in three sessions dedicated to different topics:

**ECN+ Directive: what will the plus bring?**

This session will discuss the future Directive of the EU Parliament and of the Council to empower the competition authorities of the Member States to be more effective enforcers and to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market, hereinafter referred to as ECN+.

The Directive aims to provide the national competition authorities of the Member States with the necessary powers to detect competition law infringements, to sanction companies in breach of legislation, to act independently when applying European competition rules and to have the necessary tools to carry out their tasks. The Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU coincided with the discussion on the proposal for the Directive in the EU Council G.12. *Working Group* on Competition which allowed the CPC to actively participate in this process.

**Competition in energy markets: the way to ensure affordable and secure supplies for all consumers**

This session will focus on a sector that affects everyone – energy. Over the last decades, this sector has been characterised by a gradual transition from monopoly to opening up of these markets to competition. At the same time, due to the existence of an infrastructure that cannot be duplicated, there is also a risk of abuse of a dominant position. This session will discuss the role of competition authorities in these markets, the most frequent types of competition infringements in the sector and how competition can ensure better functioning of these markets in such a way so as to bring benefits to all consumers. The Commission on Protection of Competition closely monitors the competitive environment of the electricity market. The public significance of this sector

has necessitated the carrying out of a new wide-ranging survey on the situation on the electricity market which presented a detailed overview of the current market processes and the need for additional measures contributing to the proper and effective functioning of the competitive environment. In this regard, pursuant to Decision No 59/22.01.2018 the Commission initiated proceedings for conducting a sector inquiry of the electricity market.

### **Fixing the damages – expected effects of the application of the Damages Directive**

This session will discuss the effects of the application of the recently transposed in the Member States **Directive 2014/104 EU on actions for damages under national law for infringements of the competition law provisions of the Member States and of the European Union. The Directive removes the practical obstacles** to compensation for all victims of infringements of *EU* Competition law. The Directive is expected to boost private enforcement in the area of competition. This, in turn, would have a full impact on the application of the competition rules.

### **Venue**

Boyana Residence is an architectural-park complex situated 10 km south of Sofia centre at the foot of Vitosha Mountain. It was built in 1974 as a state residence for representative events. Nowadays it is a residence of the President, Vice-president and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria. Boyana Residence has a conference centre with different halls, the biggest of which is Triaditsa with 150 places. The complex encompasses around 60 hectares of land under state security and controlled restricted access.

Near to Boyana Residence is the National History Museum which was established in 1973 on the occasion of the 1300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Bulgarian state. The largest museum in Bulgaria houses over 650 000 cultural monuments from the age of the Paleolithic until nowadays. The expositions include gold and silver treasures, ceramics and archaeological finds.

Near the National History Museum is the Boyana Church, medieval Bulgarian Orthodox church built in 10-11<sup>th</sup> century. It is one of the cultural-historic symbols of Bulgaria and it is part of the UNESCO World Heritage List.