

## = Federal Competition Authority

#### **MEMORANDUM**

# ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF COMPETITION POLICY BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF ANTIMONOPOLY REGULATION AND TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

#### **AND**

## THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL COMPETITION AUTHORITY

The Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade of the Republic of Belarus and the Austrian Federal Competition Authority (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"),

expressing the wish to promote cooperation in the field of competition policy,

aiming at the creation of favorable conditions for the development of bilateral relations, based on principles of equality and mutual benefit,

underlining the role of competition policy in the effective development of market economy,

have agreed as follows:

### Article I. AIM

1. Aim of this Memorandum is development and strengthening the cooperation between the Parties in the field of competition policy.

### Article II. FIELDS OF COOPERATION

2. In accordance with the law of the Parties States, the Parties cooperate in the following basic directions:

exchange of information on law developments of the States of Parties in the field of competition aimed at improving law, taking into account the experience of the States of Parties;

provision of information and methodological assistance, preparation of proposals and conclusions in the development of normative legal acts and other complex legal acts in the field of competition;

exchange of experience in the field of violations investigation of the antimonopoly (competition) law;

exchange of experience in the field of competition advocacy;

exchange of experience on interaction of the Parties with antimonopoly (competitive) authorities of other countries and national state authorities;

exchange of views on multilateral issues of international cooperation in the field of antimonopoly (competition) law and policy.

## Article III. FORMS OF COOPERATION

3. In order to implement Article II of this Memorandum the Parties cooperate in the following forms:

exchange of non-confidential information in the field of competition policy. The transfer of information is done by mail, e-mail or during the meeting of Parties representatives;

organization of high level-meetings/visits for discussing the perspectives and directions in which the bilateral cooperation will continue;

organizing study visits and experts training including those who working with court cases;

attendance at international conferences, symposiums, seminars and other events organized by the Parties;

expert meetings or consultation between experts of the Parties regarding exchange of non-confidential information on specific issues of mutual interest;

exchange of non-confidential documents in the field of competition policy, studies, books etc., which have been published by the Parties.

## Article IV. INFORMATION CONFIDENTIALITY

- 4. No Party will be obliged to provide information to the other Party if the transfer of such information is prohibited by the law of the State of the Party owning this information, or if it is will not be in the interests of this Party when it applies antimonopoly (competition) law.
- 5. The Parties will not publish, transfer or acquaint third parties information accessed through joint activities for the implementation of this Memorandum except cases where the Parties have separate agreements.

## Article V. FINANCING

6. Each Party will pay expenses incurred in connection with this Memorandum in accordance with the law of their States, unless otherwise agreed in each case.

## **Article VI. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

7. Disputes regarding the interpretation and (or) implementation of this Memorandum, if any, shell be settled by the means of consultations and negotiations.

## **Article VII. CHANGES AND ADDITIONS**

8 The Memorandum may be changed and supplemented, which are its integral parts, made out by separate protocols that enters into force on the date of its signing by mutual consent of the Parties.

## **Article VIII. FINAL REMARKS**

- 9. The Memorandum is not the international agreement, and it does not bear rights and obligations which are regulated by the international law.
- 10. This Memorandum is concluded for an unlimited period of time and enters into force on the date of its signing.
- 11. The Memorandum will expire after three months from the date of receipt by either Party a written notification to the other Party of its intention to terminate it.

Signed in Minsk on November 13, 2019, in two copies, each in the Russian and English languages. Both copies are equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

The Ministry of antimonopoly regulation and trade of the Republic of Belarus

The Austrian Federal Competition Authority

V.Koltovich Minister

T.Thanner

Director General