

Newsletter Consumer Protection and Competition

2025



Together for Sustainable Market Development and Consumer Protection in Uzbekistan

Strengthening Partnership through Enhanced Collaboration in Competition Promotion

On September 16, 2024, a key meeting was held with the Committee for Consumer Protection and Competition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to formalize the signing of an **addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**. This milestone marks an important step in expanding cooperation to include competition promotion, further strengthening the partnership between the two organizations.



It also strengthens cooperation for fair competition and sustainable market development by sharing best practices, enhancing regulatory standards, and providing employee training.

Enhancing Transnational Collaboration in Competition Policy: A High-Level Delegation's Visit to Belgium and Germany

One of the most noteworthy accomplishments of 2024 was the successful **high-level delegation visit to Belgium and Germany** from October 7–15, 2024. This visit was a pivotal step in our ongoing efforts to understand and adopt best practices in competition policy and antitrust regulation as implemented by the European Union and Germany.



Under the leadership of Mr. Turakhujaev, Chairman of the Committee for Consumer Protection and Competition, our delegation, comprising esteemed representatives from the Committee, actively engaged in constructive dialogue with leading institutions and renowned experts in the field, reinforcing our strong commitment to advancing robust and fair market practices while fostering international cooperation and knowledge sharing.



Enhancing Regulatory Excellence: Advanced Training on Competition Policy and State Aid at the European Commission in Brussels

A comprehensive two-day training on State aid and competition was held at the European Commission in Brussels, with a focus on enlargement and neighboring countries.



The training included expert presentations on State aid in sectors such as climate, energy, environmental protection, regional development, and land transport, while also integrating key EU initiatives like the European Green Deal, the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, and rail liberalization.



The Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Competition, Farrukh Karabaev, together with His Excellency Mr. Gayrat Fazilov, Ambassador of the Republic of

Uzbekistan in BENELUX, and Lija Grauberger, visited the Directorate-General for Competition of the European Commission (the main competition authority of the European Union) in Brussels. During their visit, they met with Deputy Director-General for Antitrust & Digital Platform Regulation, Ms. Linsey McCallum, and Head of Competition Policy and Strategy, Ms. Inge Bernaerts. As a result of discussions with the EU Commission, a potential six-month training program for specialists of the Competition Promotion and Consumer Protection Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan was proposed.

Visit to Bundeskartellamt (German Federal Cartel Office) in Bonn



A significant meeting took place between the delegation and **Andreas Mundt, President of the German Federal Cartel Office**. During the discussion, Mr. Mundt provided a detailed overview of the Office's activities and shared valuable insights into cartel detection and the regulation of cross-border economic concentration agreements.

The discussions also explored prospects for deepening institutional cooperation within the framework of the International Competition Network. Special emphasis was placed on enhancing monitoring mechanisms for competition violations and on developing tailored training programs to further strengthen the qualifications of the Uzbek Competition Committee's staff. Moreover, the delegation gained a comprehensive understanding of Germany's best regulatory practices in preventing anti-competitive actions in international markets.

Uzbekistan Competition Committee Delegation Visits Munich

The culmination of the delegation's visits to Germany was marked by a distinguished meeting in Munich with Prof. Dr. Josef Drexl, Executive Director of the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition. The Max Planck Society, renowned for its excellence, comprises over 80 scientific institutes and research centers and boasts 31 Nobel laureates among its members, standing as a beacon of scientific achievement.

During this final engagement, the delegation explored the institute's innovative market analysis approaches and discussed collaborative training, staff development, and advanced academic programs. As a gesture of scholarly support, Prof. Dr. Drexl gifted the Committee's library newly published research works.



Training on "Digital Regulation Regimes for Competition and AI"

Together with the Competition Promotion and Consumer Protection Committee, we successfully hosted a two-day training program titled "**Digital Regulation Regimes for Competition and AI**" for its specialists. This initiative aimed to further enhance participants' expertise and understanding of regulatory strategies in the evolving digital and AI-driven markets.



The seminar explored digital market regulations and AI, focusing on global competition policies and the Digital Markets Act (DMA). It strengthened local regulators' capacity to apply international best practices in Uzbekistan.

Participation in the Conference on "Fostering Sustainable Investments and Entrepreneurial Support to Enhance Population Welfare" in Tashkent

On October 22, 2024, Tashkent hosted the international conference "Fostering Sustainable Investments and Entrepreneurial Support to Enhance Population Welfare," bringing together global and local stakeholders.

The event reinforced Tashkent's role in economic and policy dialogue, while we had the honor of contributing as speakers. Key speakers included, among others, Farrukh Karabaev, Lija Grauberger, and Daria Kim, who discussed economic reforms aimed at promoting competition and reducing state intervention. A key topic was the "Yellow Pages Rule," which limits

state-owned enterprises in competitive sectors to ensure a level playing field.



Training Seminar on Competition and Intellectual Property Law

The Competition Promotion and Consumer Protection Committee of Uzbekistan, in collaboration with the German Sparkassenstiftung, hosted a high-level seminar led by Dr. Daria Kim from the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition. The seminar explored competition and intellectual property law in fostering innovation, along with digital platforms, AI, and global best practices. It emphasized the need for a strong legal framework and enhanced the expertise of the Committee's specialists.

Successful Completion of the Financial Literacy Campaign in all Regions of Uzbekistan

At the end of the year, we conducted a nationwide financial literacy campaign in close cooperation with the Committee for the Development of Competition and Consumer Protection. This initiative covered key topics such as fraud prevention, saving strategies, and consumer rights, significantly contributing to strengthening financial awareness among the population.

Under the theme of 'Financial Literacy,' the campaign reached all regions of Uzbekistan, playing a crucial role in raising awareness and enhancing the understanding of fundamental financial principles and consumer rights, particularly among students and citizens. As part of the initiative, seminars on 'Consumer Law and Financial Literacy' were organized in 50

educational institutions across 14 regions. A total of 5,472 participants attended, 60% of whom were women. Seven experts from the Committee led the sessions, ensuring an interactive and practical learning experience. The campaign also received widespread public attention through extensive media coverage, including television broadcasts and social media outreach.

Training Seminar on E-Commerce Trends, Consumer Relations, and Effective Protection Strategies

The German Sparkassenstiftung conducted a training seminar for employees of the Competition Committee and its territorial offices on e-commerce, its dynamics, consumer relationships, and effective consumer protection.

The seminar took place in Tashkent, Khorezm (with participants from Karakalpakstan), and Navoi (including representatives from Bukhara and Samarkand). Dr. Daria Kim from the Max Planck Institute in Munich led the seminar and discussed the evolution of e-commerce, key challenges, and the importance of equal consumer protection both online and offline.



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