

# COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION II INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 16-18 | 2023 | TBILISI, GEORGIA

The Second International Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection is being held in Georgia.

Protection of the principle of fair competition and the rights of consumer is a crucial factor for ensuring sustainable and inclusive economic development.

The agenda of the event covers broad range of key issues from competition policy to consumer rights protection mechanisms, and activities carried out by the regulatory agencies.

The three-day event is jointly organized by the Georgian National Competition Agency, the National Bank of Georgia, Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission, Georgian National Communication Commission and Insurance State Supervision Service of Georgia.

Involvement of public agencies, regulatory bodies, academic communities, international organizations, business sector, local and international experts and fellow agencies will further increase the synergy of participating stakeholders.

## AGENDA

Tbilisi-Time (UTC +4)

### DAY I – 16 November

Conference Venue: Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace, 20 Telavi St, Tbilisi 0103

Working Language: Georgian/English (Simultaneous Translation)

Time	Event
09:30-10:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee
10:00-10:40	<p>Opening Ceremony / Welcome Speech</p> <p>Government of Georgia:</p> <p>Levan Davitashvili - Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia</p> <p>Zurab Azarashvili - Minister of Internally Displaced persons from Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia</p> <p>Parliament of Georgia:</p> <p>Davit Songulashvili - Chairman of the Sectoral Economy and Economic Policy Committee, Parliament of Georgia</p> <p>Mikheil Sarjveladze - Chairperson of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee, Parliament of Georgia</p> <p>International Organizations:</p> <p>Teresa Moreira - Head of Competition &amp; Consumer Policies, UNCTAD</p> <p>Ori Schwartz - Head of the Competition Division, OECD</p>



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10:40-10:45	Break
10:45-12:00	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Competition and Consumer Rights in a Sectoral Perspective - Results, Achievements and Challenges</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Giorgi Abashishvili - Executive Director of “BUSINESS INSIDER GEORGIA”, Dean at Alte University Business School</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Irakli Lekvinadze - Chairman of Georgian National Competition Agency</p> <p>Natia Turnava - Acting Governor of National Bank of Georgia</p> <p>Davit Narmania - Chairman of Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission</p> <p>David Onoprishvili - Chairman of The Insurance State Supervision Service of Georgia</p> <p>Vakhtang Abashidze - Commissioner of Communications Commission</p>
12:00-12:30	<p>Coffee Break</p> <p>Media Comments</p> <p>Family Photo</p>



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12:30-13:30	<p>Keynote Speech</p> <p>William E. Kovacic - Global Competition Professor of Law and Policy at George Washington University, Director of its Competition Law Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Competition Policy, as Instrument of Growth for Small and Emerging Economies</li> <li>✓ Social Effect of Competition Policy</li> </ul>
13:30-14:30	Lunch
14:30-15:45	Parallel Breakout Session Round 1
1	<p>Agreements Restricting Competition, Effective Detection and Prevention Mechanisms, International and Domestic Experience</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Giorgi Isakadze - Host &amp; Editor at BMG</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Ilia Ghudushauri - Deputy Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia</p> <p>Čedomir Radodojčić - Member of the Council of the Commission for the Protection of Competition of Republic of Serbia</p> <p>Vesselka Kosserska - State Expert of Commission on Protection of Competition of Bulgaria</p> <p>Ramaz Razmadze - Chief Specialist of Legal Department, GNCA</p> <p>Giorgi Kedelidze - Head of Market Monitoring and Analysis Department, GNCA</p>



## 2 Trade Policy and Indirect Mechanisms Supporting Competition

### Moderator:

Nika Sergia - Head of Department for Anti-dumping Measures, GNCA

### Panelists:

Eka Sepashvili - First Deputy Chairman of the Sectoral Economy and Economic Policy Committee of the Parliament

John Braeckeveldt - Director of the European Business Association

Vakhtang Charaia - Dean of the School of Economics and Business of Grigol Robakidze University

Mariana Morgoshia - Head of the Association of Manufacturers of Georgia

## 3 Current Trends and Key Challenges in Consumer Rights Protection: Experience of Georgia and European Countries

### Moderator:

Ekaterine Kokichaishvili - Senior Lawyer at law firm "MKD"

### Panelists:

Mariam Shaishmelashvili - Head of Administration Department, GNCA

Tamar Bazghadze - Deputy Director of Legal Department, GENRC

Lasha Gzirishvili - Head of Consumer Rights Protection Department of the National Bank of Georgia

Mariam Koshoridze - Head Of Consumer Protection and Financial Education Division, Insurance State Supervision Service of Georgia



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	Martyna Derszniak-Noirjean - Director of the International Cooperation of Competition and Consumer Protection Office, UOKiK
15:45–16:00	Coffee Break
16:00–17:15	Parallel Breakout Session Round 2
1	<p>Effective Mechanisms of Concentration Control</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Irakli Shakiashvili - Acting Head of the Legal Department of GNCA</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Alexei GHERȚESCU - President of the Competition Council of Moldova</p> <p>Aleksandre Dzneladze - President of Banking Association of Georgia</p> <p>Iva Chkonia - President at Georgian distributors Business Association</p> <p>Paata Medzvelia - Deputy Head of Strategic Monitoring Department, GNCA</p>
2	<p>Consumer Rights Protection: Fostering Sustainability Through Awareness-Raising and Preventative Measure</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Arnau Izaguerri Vila - Legal Officer, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD</p>



### Panelists:

Sergo Sanikidze - Head of the Consumer Rights Protection Department, GNCA

Salome Vardiashvili - Public Defender of Consumers Interests, Energy Ombudsman

Kristina M. Mulligan - Attorney, Office of International Affairs at the Federal Trade Commission USA

Tamar Lakerbaia - Consumer Rights Protection Expert, Judge

## 3 Competition Policy and Sustainable Development, Regulated Markets and Interagency Cooperation

### Moderator:

Levan Kalandadze - Deputy Chairman of GNCA

### Panelists:

Ali Gezbeli - Competition Expert of Turkish Competition Authority

Nika Nanuashvili - Legal Director at Business Association of Georgia

Sopio Momtselidze - Head of Competition Division at the Legal Department, National Bank of Georgia

Ana Taktakishvili - Lawyer, Market Monitoring Department, GENRC

Levan Maisuradze - Head of Legal Support Group, Legal Department of the Communications Commission of Georgia



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## DAY II – 17 November

Conference Venue - Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace, 20 Telavi St, Tbilisi 0103

Working Language: Georgian/English (Simultaneous Translation)

Time	Event
09:30-10:00	Registration, Welcome Coffee
10:00-11:15	<p>UNCTAD Session: Key Trends and Challenges of Consumer Protection in E-commerce</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Teresa Moreira - Head of Competition &amp; Consumer Policies, UNCTAD</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Daniel Mańkowski - Vice President of Competition and Consumer Protection of Poland</p> <p>Goda Aleksaite - Director of State Consumer Rights Protection Authority of Lithuania</p> <p>Izabella Szoboszlai - Member of the Competition Council of the Hungarian Competition Authority</p> <p>Hara Nikolopoulou - Vice President of Hellenic Competition Commission</p> <p>Elnur Baghirov - Deputy to Head of Service State Service for Antimonopoly and Consumer Market Control under the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan</p>





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11:15-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-12:45	<p>OECD Session: Conveying the Benefits of Competition and the Risks of Infringing Competition Law</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Ori Schwartz - Head of the Competition Division, OECD</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Natalie Harsdorf - Borsch - Director General of the Austrian Competition Authority</p> <p>Anuj Verma - Deputy Director, Financial Analyst, Competition Commission of India</p> <p>Jolanta Ivanauskienė - Chairwoman of Lithuanian Competition Council</p> <p>Dan Virgil Pascu - Vice President of the Romanian Competition Council</p>
12:45-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:00	<p>Memorandum Signing Ceremony between the Counterpart Agencies of the Competition and Consumer Rights Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgia – Austria</li> <li>• Georgia – Serbia</li> </ul>



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## DAY III – 18 November

Venue: Kakheti Region

Working Language: Georgian/English

Time	Event
10:30-11:00	Registration, Welcome Coffee
11:00-11:10	Welcome Speech
	David Songulashvili - Chairman of the Sectoral Economy and Economic Policy Committee of the Parliament of Georgia
11:10-11:40	Closing Remarks
	Georgian National Competition Agency
	National Bank of Georgia
	Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission
	Insurance State Supervision Service of Georgia
	Communications Commission