



Competition Law Newsletter

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The 2025 reform of the Greek Competition Act

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On November 28th, 2025, Law 5255/2025 (Government Gazette Issue A' 219/28.11.2025) entered into force, introducing both procedurally and substantially amendments to Law 3959/2011 on the protection of free competition, as in force (hereinafter, the "**Greek Competition Act**"). The purpose of the revision is to enhance the effective functioning of the Hellenic Competition Commission (hereinafter, the "**HCC**") and safeguard its financial independence, which is a prerequisite for the unhindered fulfillment of its mission.

The amendments focus primarily on improvements to the merger control framework, clarifications regarding the HCC's sanctioning powers for procedural infringements, new provisions enabling the HCC to use advanced technological tools and to employ trainees on a remunerated basis, as well as on clarifications on the calculation of the 1% fee in favor of the HCC. Collectively, these changes aim to enhance HCC's effectiveness and reinforce legal certainty.

A brief overview of the key amendments is outlined below:

A. Prior notification of concentrations: A key amendment is the abolition of the 30-day period previously applicable to notifying parties. Under the revised Article 6 of the Greek Competition Act, a concentration must be notified to the HCC prior to its implementation and following the conclusion of the agreement or the announcement of the bid or the exchange or the undertaking of the obligation to acquire an interest, which leads to acquisition of control of an undertaking. This change aligns the Greek legislation with the EU legislation (Regulation 139/2004) and with the practice of most EU Member States, which do not impose relevant notification periods.

Furthermore, pursuant to Article 8 of the Greek Competition Act, statutory deadlines for the assessment of a concentration do not commence if the notification form is incomplete or incorrect. The HCC may, within seven (7) working days from the date of the initial notification, request corrections or additional information. This mechanism aims to ensure more complete submissions and prevent unnecessary delays.

B. HCC's sanctioning powers for procedural infringements: In line with Directive (EU) 2019/1 (ECN+), in cases of non-compliance with a request for information issued by the HCC, submission of inaccurate or incomplete information, or obstruction of on-site inspections, the HCC may impose fines of up to 1% of the total worldwide turnover of the undertakings involved. In addition to periodic penalty payments introduced by Law 4886/2022, the HCC now has greater flexibility to select the most appropriate sanctioning measure.



C. HCC's digital transformation: The insertion of Article 38A authorizes the HCC to use data mining methods, artificial intelligence systems, and to interface with the information systems of public and, subject to approval, private entities. Notably, the HCC now has direct and full access to the Integrated Information System - National System of Electronic Public Procurement ('OPS - ESIDIS') with the aim of detecting and combating anti-competitive practices in public procurement without submitting requests or disclosing details of its investigations. Pursuant to the Explanatory Note, this development reflects recommendations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ('OECD') and the European Commission, which encourage Member States to ensure that National Competition Authorities have access to information necessary to investigate potential collusion. Nevertheless, the usage of such technological tools may raise some concerns regarding transparency, proportionality and data protection issues.

D. The 1% fee in favor of the HCC: The revised Article 17 of the Greek Competition Act, clarifies the basis on which the newly incorporated Sociétés Anonymes or established Sociétés Anonymes when proceeding to a share capital increase, shall calculate the 1% fee in favor of the HCC, i.e. on the amount of the share capital increase. Notably, it is further clarified that any exemptions from levies or fees in favor of the State or third parties, do not extend to such fee. Even though this obligation has been established since 2000, this provision enhances transparency, which is vital, as this fee constitutes the primary source of revenue for the HCC.

The present newsletter contains general information only and is not intended to provide specific professional advice or services.

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