MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE STATE COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF
ECONOMIC COMPETITION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA (SCPEC)
AND THE FRENCH AUTORITÉ DE LA CONCURRENCE

The State Commission for the Protection of Economic Competition of the Republic of Armenia (SCPEC), on the one side,
and the French Autorité de la Concurrence, on the other side,
hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Parties",
Expressing the wish to promote cooperation in the field of competition policy,
Aiming at creating favourable conditions for the development of bilateral cooperation, based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit,
Highlighting the defining role of competition policy in promoting the effective development of market economy of the Parties' States,
Have reached understanding on the following:

1. Purpose of the Memorandum
The purpose of the present Memorandum ("the Memorandum") will be to strengthen cooperation between the Parties in the field of competition legislation and law enforcement, as well as in the area of competition advocacy.

2. Cooperation on general matters
As regards cooperation on general issues of competition policy, the Parties' initiatives shall, inter alia, and subject to their reasonably available resources, comprise the following:
1) the exchange of non confidential information related to cases that may be of mutual interest for the Parties;
2) supporting each other's involvement in international activities;
3) the organisation of seminars, fora, courses and other similar events;
4) the organisation of study visits;
5) receiving interns;
6) making information related to legislation, decisions, case law, procedural notices, annual reports, and other publicly available relevant material mutually accessible.

3. Consultations
Should a Party inform the other Party that activities conducted by the latter may be of interest to the former in competition law enforcement, it may request the informed Party to hold consultations in connection with these activities.

Should a Party express its interest in holding such consultations, the other Party will make its best effort to arrange for these.

4. Meetings
The Parties will endeavour, when needed, to conduct meetings in order to:
- discuss current issues, experiences and new developments of mutual interest with respect to competition legislation, law enforcement and advocacy, as well as other issues in the framework of the Memorandum:
- exchange non-confidential information on general issues pertaining to competition policy;
- exchange views with respect to multilateral initiatives in the field of competition policy.

The Parties will take advantage of the opportunities to have meetings within the framework of international events in which they both take part.

5. Confidentiality
Each Party recognises the necessity to ensure confidentiality of all information communicated by the other Party in the framework of the Memorandum in accordance with their national legislations.

6. Financial conditions
All expenses including expenses for travel, meals, and accommodation of the Parties' representatives in the territory of the State of the receiving Party in the framework of the participation of such representatives in different events and
meetings under the Memorandum shall be covered by the sending Party, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.

7. Final provisions

The Memorandum shall enter into force from the date of its signature by both Parties.

The Memorandum is subject to termination by either Party upon six-month prior written notification.

Obligations of the Parties regarding the confidentiality of the information received in the framework of the Memorandum shall continue to be binding after its termination.

The Memorandum shall not affect the rights and obligations arising out of any other cooperation memorandum entered into by the Parties.

Any amendment to the Memorandum shall be made by mutual agreement of the Parties in written form, executed as a protocol and signed by both Parties.

The Memorandum does not establish nor purport to establish any legal rights and obligations between the Parties.

Signed on March 19th, 2012 in Yerevan, in two original copies, each in Armenian, French, and English, all being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation of the Memorandum, the English text shall prevail.

For the State Commission for the Protection of Economic Competition of the Republic of Armenia (SCPEC)

Artak Shaboyan
Chairman

For the French Autorité de la concurrence

Bruno Lasserre
President