

Meeting Summary | OECD Holds Collective Action Meeting in Support of Fair Market Conditions for Competitiveness in Serbia

22/11/2022 – The OECD South East Europe Regional Programme held a high-level meeting in Belgrade to convene the Collective Action Community of Serbia and acknowledge policy makers’ commitment to further reforms in support of [Fair Market Conditions for Competitiveness](#).

The event was an opportunity to share and endorse the key recommendations developed by the Collective Action Community in support of a level playing field and to plan for further action in the year to come.

The meeting was inaugurated by four high-level speakers. In his opening, co-host and Advisor to the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Miroslav Miletić stressed the importance of the collaboration in modernising the economy. Karim Dahou, Deputy Director of Global Relations and Cooperation at the OECD, greeted the partnership between the OECD and Serbia and highlighted the main avenues for reform in the policy areas of *anti-corruption and competition policy and the framework for state-owned enterprises*. Assistant Minister from the Ministry of Justice Goran Džafić conveyed Serbia’s commitment to advancing recommended reforms in support of fair market conditions and continuing with its zero-tolerance approach to corruption. The opening ended with the address from Uroš Nedeljković, Compliance Officer at Siemens, the project funder, who underscored the crucial importance of fair competition for attracting investments and hailed the work of the Collective Action Community.



OECD experts Hendrik Bosshammer and Renato Ferrandi presented the key project findings and recommendations. These included (1) strengthening anti-corruption policies with whistle-blower protection systems and ensuring that public asset disclosures also extend to public officials, (2) strengthening competition law enforcement by setting up a state aid registry – and monitoring if state aid control regulations are followed, (3) improving the framework for SOEs through the implementation of a state ownership policy and clearer criteria for professionalising SOE management.

After the presentation of key results and good practices for effective reform implementation, a multi-stakeholder panel on *Strengthening Competition Law* took center stage. During the panel discussion, the audience heard from four project stakeholders. Željko Rakić from the Ministry of Internal and Foreign Trade gave an overview of the development of competition standards in Serbia and the legal tools in place to protect it. Čedomir Radojčić from the Commission for Protection of Competition emphasised the importance of understanding the idiosyncrasies of competitiveness and competition and how best to improve them. Pištaljka's Vladimir Radomirović underlined the need for institutions to become independent, for government to be more rigidly scrutinised and whistleblowers better protected. Jovan Nicić from Prospector reflected on the importance of including students and NGOs in awareness raising programmes such as the anti-corruption legal clinics he has been leading at the University of Belgrade.



The morning session was closed by Anita Richter, Acting Head of the OECD South East Europe Division, who reiterated the OECD's readiness to continue to work with Serbia on better policies for its citizens.

During the afternoon, the meeting was dedicated to taking stock of the Collective Action achievements and next steps, featuring a roundtable during which expert members discussed the way forward in aligning

initiatives. Coming from the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Bojana Smartek shared key initiatives including the agency's engagement with the private sector and with the intersection of gender and corruption. Hemofarm's Jelena Danilović shared her experience in the private sector, identifying the potential for integrity-driven companies to serve as a role model for SOEs and other enterprises lagging. Mr Nemanja Nenadić from Transparency International (TI) Serbia spoke about the country's performance in TI rankings and how to improve going forward, while Associate Professor Marko Slavkovic from the University of Kragujevac, highlighted his integrity work with economics students and local governments.

The afternoon session was closed by Siemens' Compliance Officer Uroš Nedeljković and Gordana Todorović, Assistant Director at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The speakers congratulated the Collective Action Community for its engagement and looked forward to further collaboration.

For key findings, please consult: [Country Profile for Serbia](#)

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