



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**  
**-COMPETITION AUTHORITY-**

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Tirane, 18/03/2010

Competition Commission in its last meeting reviewed the situation created in the market of loading-unloading and storage of liquid petroleum gas and decided for immediate intervention in this market being expressed for provisional measures.

Competition Authority after public concerns expressed in the media, appeals to enterprises operating in this market, and also the concerns addressed by the Ministry of Economy, has begun in the last 10 days of February the investigation procedure prior to loading services market, unloading and storage of liquid gas, preliminary investigation procedure in the service market loading- unloading and storage of liquid gas.

During this investigation it is shown that the port "Vlora-1" was granted exclusive concession by the state so the company Petrolifera, for the construction and use of the terminal for the storage of oil and gas in the Bay of Vlora.

This terminal under the agreement will operate as an independent service terminal, open to all qualified operators. The concessionaire is not allowed to exercise commercial activities for oil, gas and their derivatives.

In terms of law for the protection of competition, the system of stevedoring and storage constitute a necessary infrastructure for this activity.

The inspections carried out and documents that are only administered resulted in a market operator has the right to dismiss and to file its products in deposits owned by Petrolifera.

This contract may have serious restrictive effects on competition in the relevant market because it has given the possibility of other companies operating in this market.

Due to the risk of committing a serious damage and irreparable for competition, the Competition Commission, based on article 24, letter d, Article 44 of Law no. 9121, 28.07.2003, "On protection of competition", is going to take these temporary measures:

1. Obligation immediately and not later than 5 days from notification of the decision of the company Petrolifera Italo-Albanese, to enable anchoring, removal,

- handling and storage of gas, for every licensed operator interested in national or international law to operate in this terminal;
2. Notification to the Competition Authority for an exemption from the prohibition of the Competition Commission's decision of all exclusive agreements the Concessionaire "Petrolifera Italo-Albanese" on the basis of articles 6 and 49 of law no. 9121 "On protection of competition".

Non-implementation of this decision constitutes a serious violation of the competition and fined 2-10% of annual total turnover.

While the Competition Authority will continue investigations to determine if any restrictions on competition in the market loading -unloading and storage of liquid gas.