

Ms. Chiara Zilioli
European Central Bank
Legal Services
Sonnemannstr. 20
60314 Frankfurt am Main

17 October 2016 No. S 2016/(4.7-0400)-12-4355

RE: 2016/101/LEGCO First WP (extended) - Questionnaire on assigning powers to the NCB to assess competition and issue directions to lenders with regard to interest rates (LS/16/1114)

Dear Chiara,
Dear colleagues,

Please find our answers to questions regarding powers of the NCB to assess competition and issue directions to lenders with regard to interest rates.

1. Has your central bank been assigned with tasks relating to the protection of competition? Has it been assigned similar powers to regularly assess the state of competition? Please describe briefly the scope of those tasks, also referring to the legal basis.

No.

2. Has your central bank been assigned with powers to regulate the interest rates charged by banks in respect of loans and/or the savings remuneration offered by banks in respect of deposits; and/or the application of usury laws in your respective jurisdictions? Please describe briefly the scope of those powers, also referring to the legal basis.

No.

3. Has another public authority, such as the national competition or consumer protection authority, been conferred with such tasks to assess competition, or to regulate interest rates on loans or deposit rates offered by financial institutions? How do these authorities interact with the central bank and/or the prudential supervisor in carrying out such tasks? Please describe briefly the scope of those powers, also referring to the legal basis.

The Competition Council of the Republic of Lithuania is the institution responsible for protection of competition in Lithuania.

According to the procedure specified in the Law on Competition the Competition Council has a right to investigate cases of agreements of market participants (including credit institutions) restricting competition or abuse of a dominant position. Article 25 (1) (6) of the Law on Competition provides that in carrying out the investigation, the authorised officials of the Competition Council shall have the right to obtain from the undertakings, other natural and legal persons and public administration entities the documents, data and other information necessary for conducting the investigation. In cases of investigation of Lietuvos bankas competence areas, Lietuvos bankas will be obliged to provide information for the Competition Council in accordance with provisions of the laws regulating information confidentiality.

Additional information regarding activities of the Competition Council you could find in the Law on Competition and the Law on Prohibition of Unfair Business. Links of these laws are provided below.

Law on Competition:

<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/49e68d00103711e5b0d3e1beb7dd5516?jfwid=q8i88mf0v>

Law on Prohibition of Unfair Business:

<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/a3a2a1f0814111e59a1ed226d1cbceb5?jfwid=-19kda1hxn8>

If you have any other additional questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

