



Athens, October 03, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

Statement of Objections (following complaints) for alleged violation of Articles 1 and 2 of Law 703/1977, by the Transport Company “KASSANDRA I.M.E. – Ltd” of tank vehicles for pumping and transportation of sewage and wastewater from Kassandra Peninsula in Halkidiki (former “Joint-Venture of Owners of Public Service Tank Vehicles for Pumping and Transportation of sewage and wastewater from Kassandra Peninsula in Halkidiki”).

The competent Division of the Competition Commission will convene on 18 November 2011 to examine, following the issuing of a statement of objections, whether the members/proprietors of the transport company “KASSANDRA I.M.E.-Ltd”, which is active in the market for sewage/wastewater transportation services in Kassandra Peninsula in Halkidiki, have infringed Articles 1 and 2 of Law 703/2011.

According to the Statement of Objections, the members of Kassandra Joint Venture have infringed Article 1 of Law 703/77 by concluding price-fixing agreements, in the period 2001-2002. Specifically, the parties to the cooperation, agreed to set prices and to limit competition for their services in the relevant geographic market, where they enjoy a market share of 100%.

Furthermore, according to the Statement of Objections, each and every one of the members/proprietors of the Transport Company “KASSANDRA I.M.E. – Ltd” abused their collective dominant position, in breach of Article 2 of Law 73/77, by setting excessive prices for their services, in the period 2003-2009. It should be noted that the recipients of the respective services have been greatly affected by the aforementioned exploitative abuse, as they were unable to seek alternative sources of pumping and transportation of sewage

and wastewater services, whereas such services are characterized, due to health and environmental considerations, by great inelasticity of demand. The dominant proprietors hold a collective share of 100% in the relevant geographic market of the aforementioned services.

For the above infringements, the Statement of Objections requests that fines are imposed on each and every member/proprietor involved, that they are **ordered to cease and refrain from the abovementioned practices** in the future, and that they are threatened with a fine in case of their continuance.

It should be noted that the Statement of Objections is not binding on the Competition Commission, and is without prejudice to its final decision. The Commission will decide upon the case, after an oral hearing and after review of the evidence and of the parties' arguments.