

## Greece Competition Law Firm of the Year in Greece



D. N. Tzouganatos & Partners



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D.N.Tzouganatos & Partners is recognised as Greece's sole antitrust boutique. Professor Dimitris Tzouganatos (former chairman of the Hellenic Competition Commission during the period 2000- 2003) founded the firm joined by two partners, initially Nikos Kosmidis and subsequently Stamatis Drakakakis. The team comprises also two associates and two special counsels.

The firm covers a full range of competition law matters (antitrust, mergers, state aid) and combines its work with unique experience in dealing with the Hellenic Competition Commission (HCC) as well as other Regulators (for energy, electronic communications). Its state aid practice ranges from representation of clients in state aid complaints to advising large corporations on state aid instruments. Most recently the firm focused on state aid measures in support of financial institutions.

Moreover, professionals at the firm often litigate competition law cases before the Greek administrative and civil courts (including unfair competition claims). They also represent clients before the European Commission for both contentious and transactional matters.

The firm's record of the last three years (2009-2011) includes the vast majority of high-profile cases in Greece. On the antitrust front, indicatively, the firm represented:

- the Hellenic Petroleum Company, the oil refinery incumbent involved in a complaint for abuse of dominance position;
- Unilever Hellas, during an investigation for parallel

import practices,

- Nireus Aquaculture, a fish-farming company involved in an alleged crisis cartel case;
- the Technical Chamber of Greece in a case regarding legal professions and allegedly minimum fees;
- Interamerican insurance company in an alleged cartel case;
- the Hellenic Association of Coastal Ferries in an alleged cartel case.

Further, the firm regularly advises large domestic and foreign corporations on various compliance issues (e.g. vertical and horizontal agreements, unilateral contact/pricing policy).

On the merger/transactional front, the firm obtained clearance for three landmark cases in Greece, namely:

- the acquisition of BP ground fuel activities by Hellenic Petroleum;
- the acquisition of dairy company MEVGAL by Vivartia; and
- the merger between the two largest private banks in Greece (Alpha Bank and EFG Eurobank).

D.N.Tzouganatos & Partners has a strong record in fighting cases before the Appellate Administrative Court of Athens, competent for the judicial review of the HCC decisions. Some of the most recent representations include:

- Thessalonica and Thessaly Gas Supply Companies (appeals against HCC's finding of abuse of dominance in the market of licensing gas installation equipment);
- Mediterranean Shipping Company (appeal against HCC's finding of an illegal vertical agreement between MSC and the Port of Piraeus);
- Nestlé Hellas (appeal case against HCC's finding of abuse dominant position in the instant coffee market).

The firm is characterised by the power of focus on EU and Greek competition law. Accordingly, its partners continuously contribute to conferences and events promoting the understanding of competition law and capturing any relevant development inside and outside Greece.