

<b>Ireland</b>	
<b>[Please introduce here the name of your country]</b>	
<b>COMPETITION FRAMEWORK</b>	
Competition Law	<p>Irish competition law isn't one single piece of legislation, but rather a collection of laws working together. The core is the Competition Act from 2002, which has been updated several times by other Acts like the Competition (Amendment) Act of 2022.</p> <p>These updates are all bundled together and referred to as the Competition Acts from 2002 to 2022.</p> <p><i>[Please Introduce the name of the laws constituting the National Competition Law Regime. Include the year of enactment and the corresponding amendments as well]</i></p>
Competition Authority	<p>The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) is the Competition authority in Ireland. It is an independent government agency that enforces both competition and consumer protection laws. The CCPC was established in 2014. Website: <a href="https://www.ccpc.ie/business/">https://www.ccpc.ie/business/</a></p> <p>The CCPC can impose administrative financial sanctions on undertakings, and associations of undertakings, of up to €10 million, or 10% of total worldwide turnover (whichever is greater), in the business year preceding the CCPC's decision.</p> <p><i>[Please introduce here the name of the competition authorities that are part of the enforcement process of the laws mentioned in the previous question. In that regard, please specify the norms that established those agencies, the year in which they started operation, and their website. Include tribunals only if they have a role in the process of founding guilt and imposing sanctions. This point specifically excludes judicial authorities that only have judicial review powers]</i></p>
<b>POLICY-MAKING AGENTS</b>	
<b>-DIVERSIFICATION-</b>	
How many agencies are responsible for competition enforcement?	<p>The CCPC is the agency responsible for competition enforcement.</p> <p>The Competition (Amendment) Act of 2022 strengthened Ireland's ability to enforce competition laws. It gave the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) more power to investigate and punish anti-competitive behavior. The CCPC can now find breaches, issue warnings, and impose fines. The Act also introduced a new system for handling competition cases through the CCPC.</p> <p><i>[Please mention how many authorities have a general mandate to enforce competition in your jurisdiction. Include a brief reference on their duties e.g.: if they impose criminal, civil or administrative liability. The purpose is that readers can quickly understand, which are the agencies charged with competition enforcement in the jurisdiction, the difference between them, and if they have concurrent, overlapping, or exclusionary authority. Include the relevant provisions on which their powers are based. Exclude in this point sector regulators or enforcers]</i></p>
Do sector regulators have a competition policy enforcement mandate?	<p>Section 19 of the Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014 (2014 Act) allows the CCPC to enter into agreements with certain prescribed bodies to co-operate in performing their respective functions.</p> <p>This allows the CCPC to enter into agreements with other statutory bodies to allow co-operation, avoid duplication and ensure consistency between what we do and what other statutory bodies do.</p> <p><i>[Please introduce the name agencies that have powers to enforce any aspect of competition law, including merger control, in specific sectors. Introduce the relevant provisions on which their powers are based]</i></p>

<p>Have the Competition Authority and other agencies signed protocols or memoranda of understanding with sector regulators?</p>	<p>The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) upholds cooperation agreements established by its predecessor, the Competition Authority, with various regulatory bodies.</p> <p>These agreements, authorized by Section 34(1) of the Competition Act 2002, remain in effect until replaced by newer ones between the CCPC and the relevant entities.</p> <p>Existing agreements include those with the Commission for Energy Regulation (2002), Commission for Communications Regulation (2002, renewed 2008), Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (2002), Commission for Aviation Regulation (2002), Health Insurance Authority (2021), and National Transport Authority (2011).</p> <p><i>[Please mention here any provision or interinstitutional agreement that allows the competition authorities to coordinate behavior to effectively enforce competition law]</i></p>
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**DISAGGREGATED FUNCTIONS—  
PROSECUTORIAL MODEL**

<p>Are there different authorities or agencies that make the decision to investigate and the final ruling in the cases?</p>	<p><i>[Answer: Yes or No]</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No</p>	<p>Irish competition law contained in the Competition Acts (2002-2022) has two main prohibitions: agreements that restrict competition like price fixing (section 4(1)) and abuse of dominant market position (section 5). The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) enforces these laws by investigating suspected violations.</p> <p>The CCPC can pursue criminal charges, resulting in fines and even jail time.</p> <p>Since 2022, the CCPC also has the authority to impose hefty administrative fines directly on businesses.</p> <p>Additionally, the CCPC can take civil action to have a court declare a practice illegal or order its termination.</p> <p><i>[If the answer is yes, please explain briefly the enforcement process, and include the relevant provisions. The purpose of this question is to understand the enforcement model of the jurisdiction and establish how many independent authorities are involved in the enforcement process and what are their functions]</i></p>
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<p>Are disputes presented for decision to judiciary authorities?</p>	<p><i>[Answer: Yes or No]</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>	<p>According to section 15AU of the Amendment Act of 2022, disputes set out in subsection (2) which refer to disputes concerning notification or enforcement of administrative fines or periodic penalty payments shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State and shall be resolved by the application of the law of the Member State of the requesting competition authority. These disputes are settled according to the laws of the requesting competition authority's country.</p> <p>Disputes about enforcement actions taken in Ireland go to the High Court (Section 15AU(3))</p> <p>If a legal question comes up during a hearing (including matters related to Section 15M), it can be referred to the Court for a decision.</p> <p><i>[If the answer to your question is "yes", please introduce the name of the judiciary authorities that are involved and their role until the final decision in the process is achieved; exclude from this question judiciary authorities whose role in the process is the judicial review of administrative decisions]</i></p>
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<p>Do private rights of action to challenge competition law infringements exist in your</p>	<p><i>[Answer: Yes or No]</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>	<p>According to the Competition (Amendment) Act 2022, private rights of action to challenge competition law infringements exist in Ireland's competition law.</p>
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jurisdiction		<p>Section 47H of the Principal Act was inserted to provide for private enforcement of competition law, allowing individuals and businesses to seek damages and other remedies through civil actions for infringements of competition law.</p> <p><i>[If the answer is "yes", please explain briefly the process and who are the persons entitled to exercise those rights; mention the relevant provisions]</i></p>
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**\* Please fill the next sections for each of the authorities mentioned in the prior sections excluding sector regulators**

**The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission  
(CCPC)**

**STATUS OF THE COMPETITION AUTHORITY**

<b>Accountability</b>	Please, answer "Yes" in the boxes of this line if any of the duties on the right column apply to the authority, and "No" if they do not.	Answer with X/√ as it applies	Please, in the boxes of this line mention the relevant provisions in which the obligations are based.
Does the Competition Authority have obligations before the executive?	Yes	√	<p>Obligations to report to the executive on on-going investigations upon request.</p> <p>Section 20 of the Act specifies the CCPC shall comply with any request of the Minister to furnish to him or her such information with respect to the performance of its functions or its activities as the Minister may from time to time require.</p> <p>This means that the CCPC must provide information regarding its investigations if requested by the Minister.</p> <p><i>[Introduce the relevant provisions]</i></p>
		X	<p>The decisions of the Competition Authority may be vetoed by a ministry or by the executive branch.</p> <p>There is no provision in the act that states that the decisions of the Commission can be vetoed by a ministry or the executive branch.</p> <p>Actually, the independence of the Competition Authority and adjudication officers is emphasized along the act, ensuring their decisions are not subject to executive override.</p> <p>Section 15P states adjudication officers shall be independent in the performance of their functions.</p> <p><i>[Introduce the relevant provisions]</i></p>
		√	<p>The executive has to report on an annual basis to the executive.</p> <p>The CCPC is required to report on an annual basis to the executive. Specifically, the CCPC must prepare an annual report detailing its activities, which is then submitted to the Minister.</p> <p>This obligation is outlined in Section 15O of the Act</p> <p><i>[Introduce the relevant provisions]</i></p>
Does the Competition Authority have obligations before the legislature?	Yes	√	<p>Obligation to publish an annual report on its activities.</p> <p>According to Section 15O(2) the Commission shall make an annual report that must include:</p> <p>information on the enforcement activities of the competent authority;</p> <p>a description of the organizational</p>

				<p>structure and personnel of the competent authority.</p> <p><i>[Introduce the relevant provisions]</i></p>
		√	Obligation to stand before parliament and to respond to congressmen on an annual basis.	<p>Section 15Q of the Act states: "The chairperson or a member of the Commission shall, whenever required to do so by a Committee of either House of the Oireachtas or jointly by both Houses of the Oireachtas, attend before such a Committee to give account for the general administration of the functions of the Commission, and for that purpose shall have regard to the efficient and effective use of resources by the Commission."</p> <p><i>[Introduce the relevant provisions]</i></p>
		√	Its activities are monitored by an independent auditor or by oversight committees.	<p>According to section 35(2) of the Act, the accounts of the Commission shall be audited at least once in each year by an auditor appointed by the Minister</p> <p><i>[Introduce the relevant provisions]</i></p>
Does the Competition Authority have obligations before the judiciary or independent agencies?	Yes	√	Decisions of the Competition Authority are subject to judicial review.	<p>According to section 15AAA an adjudication officer or a competent authority may refer a question of law to the Court for decision, and that the validity of a decision made or an act done by a competent authority in the performance of a function can be reviewed by the Court</p> <p><i>[Aside from the relevant provisions please mention the judicial authority charged with the review]</i></p>
		X	Decisions of the Competition Authority are subject to review or control of an independent authority different from the judiciary?	<p>There is no provision that states there is an independent authority, different than the judiciary, that reviews or controls the decisions of the CCPC</p> <p><i>[Aside from the relevant provisions, please mention the authority charged with the review]</i></p>
		<p><b>Other obligations / comments:</b> Please introduce any other obligation or comment that you consider relevant.</p> <p><i>[Introduce any comment that you consider relevant regarding the status of accountability of accountability of the competition authority]</i></p>		
<b>Independence</b>		Please, answer "Yes" or "No"		
Are the criteria for appointment and removal of the head/board members clear and transparent?	Yes	<p>According to sections 15O and 15 Q the relevant Minister shall make regulations prescribing requirements and qualifications necessary for appointment. Additionally, eligible persons for nomination include members of the competent authority, legally qualified persons, and others with sufficient expertise in competition law or economics.</p> <p>It is also stated that revocation of appointments may only occur upon decision by the Government after an independent assessment and recommendation by persons with relevant experience.</p> <p>Grounds for removal include incapacity due to ill-health, serious misconduct, or a conflict of interest assessed to be likely to continue.</p>		

		<i>[Please introduce the relevant provisions, and if the answer to this question is “no”, explain briefly why in your opinion the criteria are not clear or transparent]</i>
Does the executive have powers to decide on specific cases based on public interest?	No	The CCPC operates independently, and its decisions are subject to judicial review rather than executive intervention. There are no provisions mentioned that grant the executive the authority to influence or decide specific cases handled by the CCPC based on public interest  <i>[Please introduce the relevant provisions, and if the answer to the question is “yes”, explain in which cases the executive can decide on public interest bases]</i>
Does the executive retain decision-making powers over the Competition Authority?	No	
Is the Competition Authority obliged to publish reasoned decisions to ensure transparency?	Yes	The Amendment Act does not explicitly state that the Competition Authority (CCPC) is obliged to publish reasoned decisions to ensure transparency.  <i>[Please introduce the relevant provisions]</i>
Is there a provision of the national budget allocated by law to the Competition Authority to ensure its proper functioning?	Yes	The Amendment Act does not explicitly mention a provision of the national budget allocated by law to the Competition Authority but section 35 of the Act states the Commission shall keep accounts of all moneys received or expended, and these accounts shall be audited at least once a year by an auditor  <i>[Please introduce the relevant provisions and the budget assigned to the authority for the current year and the next if it is already approved]</i>
Can the Competition Authority be financed by its own means (notification fees, fines, etc.)?	Yes	Section 15AAD states that any payment received by the competent authority, including amounts due pursuant to a decision confirmed or replaced under section 15AY, or confirmed under section 15AZ, or pursuant to a decision under section 15X in respect of periodic penalty payments, shall be paid into, or disposed of for the benefit of, the Exchequer as the Minister for Finance may direct  <i>[Please introduce the relevant provisions and mention the means by which the authority can be financed on its own]</i>
<b>GOVERNANCE OF THE COMPETITION AUTHORITY</b>		
Is the Competition Authority governed by a single chairman or by a collegiate body?	The CCPC is governed by an Executive Chairperson and Commission structure. Each Member oversees a number of Divisions in the CCPC on behalf of the Commission  <i>[Answer “single chairman” if the directive organ of the authority is composed of one person. Answer “collegiate body” if the authority’s directive organ is composed of two or more members, regardless if this organ is directed or presided by a chairman or president. Also mention how many board members or directors are part of the Direction Body]</i>	
How are the members of the Authority’s directive organ chosen?	The members of the Authority's directive organ, specifically the adjudication officers, are chosen through a nomination and appointment process:  The competent authority nominates individuals for appointment as adjudication officers (Section 15AB (3)); These nominations are then submitted to the relevant Minister for approval; The relevant Minister has the authority to establish regulations for creating a panel of adjudication officers, determining the necessary requirements and qualifications for the role (Section 15AB(4)); The Minister can appoint a Chief Adjudication Officer for either or both competent authorities (Section 15AB(7)); The Minister must appoint a nominated individual unless there are concerns about their qualifications or independence.  <i>[Please describe the electing process for choosing the members of the directive organ. Include relevant provisions; mention the branch government involved in this process]</i>	
Is there a fixed period during which removal is prohibited?	No	<i>[If your answer is “yes”, please introduce the duration of the tenure and the relevant provisions. If the answer is no, please refer if there are specific and restricted grounds under which the members of the Directive body can be removed; mention if they are elected for a term and introduce the relevant provisions]</i>

Is the tenure of the heads renewable?	Yes	Section 15Q of the Amendment Act of 2022 states that the relevant Minister shall make regulations identifying the criteria for renewal of appointment of adjudication officers  <i>[Please, introduce the relevant provisions]</i>
Are the heads required by law to have certain minimum qualifications (degree in law or economics, age, experience)?	Yes	Eligible persons for nomination include members of the competent authority, legally qualified persons, and others with sufficient expertise in competition law or economic (Section 15Q(2)).  <i>[If your answer is "yes", please make reference to the qualifications required by law and the relevant provisions]</i>
<b>ARCHITECTUREA</b>		
Is the Competition Authority a stand-alone agency with an independent physical location or is it part of a bigger entity such as a ministry?	Stand-alone	The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) is an independent statutory body.  <i>[If your answer is "part of a bigger entity", please explain briefly how the bigger entity is organized]</i>
<b>POLICY DUTIES</b>		
Does the Competition Authority have an exclusive mandate on competition or multiple mandates?	Exclusive	<i>[Answer with X/√ as it applies]</i>  √  <i>[Concurrent consumer protection mandate]</i>  The CCPC has a dual mandate to enforce competition and consumer protection law in Ireland.
		<i>[Answer with X/√ as it applies]</i>  <i>[Concurrent IP mandate]</i>
		<i>[Other mandates: Include any other mandates entrusted to the Competition Authority]</i>
<b>PORTFOLIO INSTRUMENTS</b>		
<b>Law Enforcement</b>		
Does the Competition Authority have powers to investigate cartels?	Yes	Section 4(1) of the Competition Act prohibits and renders void "all agreements between undertakings, decisions by associations of undertakings and concerted practices which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition in trade in any goods or services in the State or in any part of the State". Consequently, the CCPC's role is to enforce Irish and EU competition law by investigating suspected breaches of these prohibitions.  <i>[If the answer is "yes", please mention the type of liability that the actions of the agency seek: civil, criminal, administrative. Introduce the relevant provisions; briefly explain if the powers of the authority are limited to certain types of cartels and what kind of sanctions can be imposed]</i>
Does the Competition Authority have powers to investigate unilateral Conduct?	Yes	Section 5 of the Competition Act prohibits the abuse of a dominant position by unfairly raising prices or squeezing out competitors. Consequently, the CCPC's role is to enforce Irish and EU competition law by investigating suspected breaches of these prohibitions.  <i>[If the answer is "yes", please mention briefly if the competition authority is invested with the power to pursue exploitative and exclusionary effects, also make reference to relevant provisions, the type of liability that the actions of the authority seek, and what kind of sanctions can be imposed]</i>

Does the Competition Authority have the powers to conduct <i>ex-ante</i> merger review?	Yes	<p>The CCPC is responsible for enforcing competition law, which includes the review of mergers and acquisitions before they occur (ex-ante).</p> <p><i>[If the answer is "yes", please explain briefly the process and which are the remedies that authority can seek or impose and mention the relevant provisions]</i></p>
Is the notification of merger transactions mandatory?	Yes	<p>The Competition Act (amended in 2002) requires companies to notify the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) about certain mergers and acquisitions. This applies to transactions that meet specific financial thresholds. However, the CCPC also has the authority, under section 18A(2) of the Act, to request notification for deals that fall below these thresholds.</p> <p>The financial threshold applies when the combined revenue of all involved companies in Ireland surpasses €60 million in the most recent financial year, and at least two of these companies individually generate over €10 million in revenue within the same period. However, exceptions exist.</p> <p>Media mergers might have different notification requirements, and the Minister for Enterprise, Trade, and Employment can designate specific merger types requiring notification regardless of financial size (currently exemplified by Statutory Instrument No. 122 of 2007)</p> <p><i>[If the answer is "yes", please explain whether all the transactions shall be notified or if there is a threshold; mention relevant provisions]</i></p>
Can the parties close the transaction before the final decision of the Authority (suspensory effect of merger notification)?	Yes	<p>The Competition Commission can take temporary actions (interim measures) to stop mergers from happening if they believe the merger could hurt competition. This applies to both mergers that need notification and those the Commission investigates later (Below Threshold Mergers).</p> <p><i>[Please mention the relevant provisions and add any explanation that you deem necessary]</i></p>
Does the Competition Authority have the power to carry out <i>ex-post</i> merger investigations?	Yes	<p>According to the Mergers and Acquisitions Procedures Guide, The Commission has the authority to examine all mergers notified to them. Based on this examination, they can determine whether the merger would likely lead to a substantial decrease in competition within any markets for goods or services offered in the State.</p> <p><i>[Please mention relevant provisions]</i></p>
Does the Competition Authority have the power to impose remedies on <i>ex-post</i> merger investigations?	Yes	<p>According to section 15X an adjudication officer can impose structural or behavioral remedies on the undertaking or association of undertakings concerned in accordance with section 15Z.</p> <p><i>[If the answer is yes, please mention the remedies that the Authority can impose; mention relevant provisions]</i></p>
Does the Competition Authority have powers to conduct dawn raids at premises?	Yes	<p>According to the Insertion of sections 40A and 40B in Communications Regulation Act 2002 (in the amendment act of 2022) a District Court judge can issue a search warrant under the Competition Act 2002. This is only possible if the conditions set out in section 40B are met.</p> <p>The warrant authorizes the authorized officer, along with any necessary assistance from other authorized officers or Garda Síochána members, to enter and search the premises within one month of issuance. If necessary, reasonable force can be used during the search. The officer also has the authority to exercise any powers granted under section 39(3B) of the Act.</p> <p><i>[If the answer is "yes", please mention whether the dawn raids shall be authorized by a judge, and mention the relevant provisions]</i></p>

Can the Competition Authority investigate <i>ex officio</i> cases?	Yes	According to section 30(b) of the Act, the CCPC can carry out an investigation, on its own initiative  <i>[Please, mention the relevant provisions]</i>
Does the Competition Authority have powers to accept leniency applications?	Yes	The CCPC offers immunity from criminal prosecution (Cartel Immunity Programme) and reduced administrative fines (Administrative Leniency Policy).  These programs help uncover cartels, gather evidence, and deter their formation in the first place. If you participated in a cartel, contact the CCPC as soon as possible for details on applying.  The Cartel Immunity Programme (CIP) offers immunity from criminal prosecution for those who come forward first and cooperate fully with the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) investigation. The application process involves the CCPC, but the final decision on granting immunity rests with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).  The Administrative Leniency Program (ALP) applies to administrative enforcement actions pursued by the CCPC. Companies that cooperate with the investigation and disclose their involvement in a cartel can receive significant benefits, including complete immunity from any financial penalties or a substantial reduction in the administrative fines that would otherwise be imposed.  <i>[If the answer is "yes", please mention if there is any limitation for the applicants, what are the benefits, and mention the relevant provisions. Include any commentary that you consider relevant about the leniency program]</i>
Does the Competition Authority have powers to accept seek criminal punishment?	Yes	Businesses or individuals that breach competition law may be subject to criminal, administrative or civil sanctions  <i>[If the answer is "yes", please mention the different kinds of sanctions that the agency can impose]</i>
<b>Advocacy</b>		
Can the Competition Authority issue opinions on draft legislation?	Yes	According to section 30(C) of the Act, the CCPC can highlight to Government and other policymakers the possible impact of proposed legislation or regulations on competition and/or consumer welfare  <i>[if the answer is yes, please specify if there is any kind of limitation to the agency's authority to issue opinions, include relevant provisions]</i>
Is the executive and/or the legislature obliged to request the opinion of the Competition Authority when drafting legislation that may impact competition?	No	One of the functions of the CCPC is to advise the Government, Ministers of the Government and Ministers of State concerning the implications for competition in markets for goods and services of proposals for legislation (including any instruments to be made under any enactment (Section 30 of the Act)  <i>[if the answer is yes, include relevant provisions]</i>
<b>Rulemaking</b>		
Can the Competition Authority issue guidelines?	Non-Binding	Answer with X/√ as it applies  √  <i>[Guidelines on the calculation of fines]</i>
		Answer with X/√ as it applies  √  <i>[Guidelines on merger control]</i>
		Answer with X/√ as it applies  √  <i>[Guidelines on the economic analysis of abuse of dominance cases]</i>



Can the Competition Authority issue binding regulation on competition?	No	The CCPC can publish notices containing practical guidance as to how the provisions of this Act may be complied with but there is no provision that allows them to issue binding regulation.  <i>[Please, explain which kind of regulation and mention the relevant provision on which the powers are based]</i>
<b>Research &amp; Reporting</b>		
Can the Competition Authority carry out market studies?	Yes	The CCPC studies markets and recommend ways in which competition or the experience of consumers can be improved.  <i>[If the answer is "yes", include relevant provisions]</i>
Can the Competition Authority report to the legislature on the results of market studies?	Yes	The CCPC studies markets and recommend ways in which competition or the experience of consumers can be improved.  <i>[If the answer is "yes", include relevant provisions]</i>
<b>DECISION-MAKING FUNCTIONS</b>		
<b>Aggregated Functions</b>		
Does the Competition Authority make the decision to investigate and make guilty findings?	Yes	According to the Competition (Amendment) Act 2022, the CCPC is vested with the power to conduct investigations into potential violations of competition law and to make determinations regarding such violations  Section 15AD states the CCPC's power to conduct investigations.  Section 15AI outlines the procedure for making findings of guilt and imposing sanctions.  <i>[If the answer is "yes", include relevant provisions]</i>
Does the Competition Authority impose punishments?	Yes	The 2022 Amendments Act gives the CCPC, for the first time, powers to impose civil financial sanctions for competition infringements, subject to Irish Court approval. Previously, fines could only be imposed directly by the Irish Courts.  Consequently, businesses or individuals that breach competition law in Ireland can face criminal, administrative or civil sanctions.  Cartel activity can carry criminal penalties of up to ten years imprisonment for individuals, and fines of up to €5 million or 10% of turnover for individuals and undertakings. A company director convicted of a cartel offense will automatically face disqualification from acting as a director for five years.  Criminal prosecutions, reserved for serious cases, involve potential imprisonment and fines.  Additionally, the CCPC can seek court orders to halt illegal practices or declare them unlawful, offering a more targeted approach to preventing ongoing harm. Section 8 of the Competition Act sets out the penalties for those found guilty of offenses under section 6 or section 7.  Section 14A of the Competition Act gives the CCPC the power to apply to the Circuit Court or the High Court to seek a declaration or an injunction in any case involving an alleged breach of section 4 or 5 of the Competition Act or Article 101 or 102 of the TFEU.  <i>[If the answer is "yes", please mention the different kinds of sanctions that the agency can impose]</i>
Is there a single body that carries out the investigation and the guilty findings within the Competition Authority?	No	The CCPC is in charge of both investigation and sanctioning, but inside this authority different entities handle them.  Investigators gather evidence and build cases, while independent adjudication officers make decisions on guilt and

		<p>impose penalties.</p> <p><i>[Regardless of the answer please explain briefly the enforcement process until the final decision is issued, include relevant provisions, and if the answer is "No" mention how the head of the body that carries out the investigation is elected and removed. The main idea of this last point is to establish whether the investigation authority is, in fact, independent from the decision-making body]</i></p>
Can the Competition Authority's decisions be appealed to a court?	Yes	<p>Businesses or associations impacted by decisions under section 15X can appeal to the Court within set timeframes.</p> <p>The Court can uphold, overturn, or modify the decision. Expedited hearings are available for appeals concerning prohibition notices or periodic penalty payments. Generally, filing an appeal doesn't suspend the decision unless the Court grants a stay.</p> <p><i>[Please, mention the judicial authority who is charged with the review, make reference to the relevant provisions, and if there is any requirement to exercise the right of the judicial review]</i></p>
Please add commentaries or information that you consider relevant and were not covered in any of the previous sections and questions.		