

## Competition and prices in Kosovo



06 April, Balkan Policy Institute (IPOL) organized the conference entitled: "Competition and prices in Kosovo", in the framework of the project "Public Procurement and consumer protection", supported by SOROS foundation.

Seb Bytyçi – executive director at IPOL opened the conference and made a short presentation of the project and its aim. The main aim of this project is to deal with the issues of implementing a legal framework on consumer protection, which field is very important and has a great impact on the process of developing free market in Kosovo. He continued by saying that competition was the most criticized field in the Progress Report 2010, emphasizing that an immediate reform has a great impact on the process of European integration, and membership of Kosovo in EU structures.

Representatives from Ministry of Economic Development mentioned the fact that this ministry is quite new and it takes time until they create a clear strategy on this field. The law on competition is harmonised with EU standards but what is missing in this period in Kosovo is lack of implementation of this law. The implementation of this law will have a great impact and improve current situation in Kosovo.

Selatin Kaçaniku representative from an NGO "Consumer" said that the field of competition is a very important issue in the process of European integration and membership of Kosovo in European Union. Consumer in Kosovo doesn't have it rights; currently in Kosovo are determined monopolies, oligopolies which are damaging the consumer. Also in Kosovo a free market doesn't exist and the market is not monitored.

Representative from Alliance of Kosovar Businesses, Mr. Agim Shahini said that competition is a very sensitive issue which impacts economic development. In Kosovo there is a lack of money and the money that currently is being invested in Kosovo most of the time is misused from authorities, which fact is the main reason why there is a lack of investments in Kosovo.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Roundtable over public procurement and competition.**

### OUR PUBLICATIONS:

**EULEX: In search of identity (Appraisal year report of work of EULEX)**

**Analyze of the law of public procurement**

**Local Governance reform and the elections system**

### OUR PROJECTS:

**Public Policies in the field of rule of law**

**Communicant campaign against corruption**

**Building new municipalities**

**Legal culture and anticorruption reform**

**Public Procurement and consumer protection**