

August 06, 2012

Dear Sirs,

This is to inform you about the recent amendments to the Russian competition legislation.

On June 01, 2012 the Government of the Russian Federation adopted the Decree No. 542 "On Changing and Annulment of Some Acts of the Government of the Russian Federation". The Decree introduces changes in the competition filing thresholds in respect of financial credit and non-credit organizations.

The new thresholds provide for a mandatory preliminary notification of the Federal Antimonopoly Service of the Russian Federation (hereinafter – "the FAS Russia") of a forthcoming transaction involving credit organizations if

- the book value of assets of a credit organization per the most recent approved balance sheet exceeds: Rubles 22 billion (approx. EUR 539 million, USD 685 million). Please note that earlier this threshold was set as Rubles 33 billion (approx. EUR 808 million, USD 1,027 billion).

In case a transaction involves acquisition of shares, rights and/or assets of a credit organization the FAS' post-transaction approval shall be received if

- the book value of assets of a credit organization per the most recent approved balance sheet exceeds: Rubles 2 billion (approx. EUR 49 million, USD 62 million). Please note that earlier this threshold was set as Rubles 2,5 billion (approx. EUR 61 million, USD 78 million).

Please also be informed that new rules change the assets estimation algorithm:

- assets value shall be defined in accordance with the data provided for in the Accounting Report of a credit organization (publicly available) other than in accordance with the data of a turnover accountings of a credit organization as it was earlier.

As regards transactions involving financial non-credit organizations the preliminary consent of the FAS Russia is required if

- the book value of assets of a non-credit organization per the most recent approved balance sheet exceeds: Rubles 3 billion (approx. EUR 73 million, USD 93 million).

A post-transaction approval for transactions involving non-credit organizations is required if:

- the book value of assets of a non-credit organization per the most recent approved balance sheet exceeds: Rubles 500 million (approx. EUR 12 million, USD 15 million).

Please note that the above threshold is to be reviewed annually upon approval of the Russian Ministry of Finance and the Russian Federal Agency on Financial Markets in accordance with the data on the total value of assets of financial non-credit organizations in the Russian Federation calculated further to the results of the previous year.

The new rules shall enter into force upon official publication of the Decree. As of the date of this Informational e-mail the Decree was not published.

* * *

We hope the information above is helpful for you.

For more information on ALRUD Competition practice please visit our **Web-site** or contact directly **Senior Partner, Head of ALRUD Competition practice Vassily Rudomino** vrudomino@alrud.com.

Yours faithfully,
ALRUD Law Firm

Please note: This Newsletter should not be considered as a ground for making any decision regarding a particular issue. All the information for this Newsletter was taken from the public sources.