



## Hungary appoints new members

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Hungary's President, Pál Schmitt, has appointed two new members to the decision-making body of the country's Competition Authority.



Nora Váci and Laszlo Zlatarov

Nóra Váci and László Zlatarov were appointed last week to the Competition Council for terms of six years. The council is separate from the competition authority, which is the investigative branch. It reaches its decisions in panels of three to five members. Members do not specialise according to areas of competition law or industry sectors.

Váci, 32, is an economist. She has been working at the authority as a case handler since 2001, specialising in dominance cases and concentrations in network industries such as media, telecommunications, energy and transport.

During her time as a case handler, she spent two years at the European Commission's Directorate General for Information, Society and Media. There, she assessed draft regulatory measures by member states' communications authorities on their compatibility with European law – particularly competition law.

"My move to the council offers a unique opportunity to deal with all sorts of competition cases in a variety of sectors, while permitting me to make use of my previous experience in the field," she says.

Váci says competition law is important in Hungary because, in addition to ensuring efficiency and consumer welfare, "in a post-communist country like Hungary, competition advocacy is very important as market players still have a lot to learn."

Zlatarov, 34, has worked in private practice in Brussels and Budapest. Most recently, he was an associate at Dechert LLP's Brussels competition practice, advising on merger control issues, cartel investigations, and litigation.

He decided to join the authority due to its "solid reputation" as an established competition enforcer. "It is very exciting to join the council, which has been the driving force behind many competition law developments," he says. "Given my private practice background, I also look forward to experiencing life on the other side of the table."

George Gordon, co-head of Dechert LLP's competition group in Philadelphia says: "Laszlo proved himself a highly talented competition lawyer and thinker while at Dechert. He navigated clients through complex international competition law issues in a variety of contexts."

Gordon continues: "Laszlo will be missed, but we are very excited that he will have the opportunity to continue to contribute to the advancement of competition law principles at this level. Dechert's loss is the council's gain. We wish him the best."

Paul Denis, who co-heads the competition practice in Washington, DC, says: "Laszlo was an important part of our Brussels practice. The commission is fortunate to have someone with his breadth of private sector experience in merger control, cartel and conduct matters."