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TOOLS OF COMPETITION REGULATION IN ELECTRICITY MARKETS: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE EU AND THE PROSPECTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN UKRAINE

Systematized prerequisites of becoming the EU energy policy and the regulation of competition in the electricity market. The main areas of implementation of measures of the EU competition policy in the electricity sector are identified. Preconditions of the state intervention in the competition in the relevant markets are determined. Based on the research, there are formulated directions of improvement of the competition policy of Ukraine in the energy sector.

Natural monopolies are a significant part of the economic complex of any country. According to the Antimonopoly Committee, Ukraine has more than 2.5 thousand of economic entities that are considered natural monopolies [Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine, 2015], most of which (98.5%) belongs to the scope of jurisdiction of the National Commission for the state regulation in the field of energy and utilities. It should be noted that among these entities, only 40 are natural monopolies in the field of transmission and distribution of electricity. However, the possibility of abuse of monopolistic position by these entities

as the unreliability of service, the desire to obtain additional income or covering of excessive costs at the expense of electricity consumers are important for the welfare of citizens, formation of expenditure side of production of enterprises and so on. These circumstances cause the importance of the implementation of the state antitrust policy, above all, a creation of conditions for competition in a certain sector and prevention of abuse of monopoly power. However, expert assessment of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine shows that proper competition policy comes to non-systematic investigations of abuse of monopoly power, anticompetitive concerted actions and anticompetitive actions of the authorities, unfair competition and the concentration of undertakings and is reactive in nature. At the same time, international experience suggests a relatively higher efficiency of the formation of a policy for promotion and protection of competition, which is proactive and aims to prevent conditions for the implementation of the above violations of competition.