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Speech on the occasion of the Closing Ceremony  
of the Seoul Competition Forum 2004

in Seoul/Korea on 22 April 2004

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ICN Annual Conference is drawing to a close. It was very well prepared and excellently organized. Our Korean colleagues and Chairman Mr. Kang were hosts with Asian charm and great hospitality.

It will be a big challenge to match this level at the next conference. This conference will take place in Germany.

And while thanking Mr. Kang I would also like to take this opportunity to cordially invite all of you to the 4<sup>th</sup> ICN Annual Conference to be held in Bonn from 6 – 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2005.

Many of you already became acquainted with the city of Bonn last year during our 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Competition.

Next year this traditional conference which the Bundeskartellamt has hosted every two years since nearly 25 years will be a very short one.

After a social “warming-up” meeting the day before, this conference will be held in the morning of 6 June 2005. Politicians and representatives of the German industry will be discussing competition policy issues.

In the afternoon we will start with the ICN Conference. I am very glad that we will again be meeting in the former Plenary Hall of the German Bundestag.

Personally I cannot imagine any better place for an event such as the ICN Conference in Germany than a parliamentary building.

And I cannot imagine a better time than June, a mild summer month and a good opportunity to bring your partners with you.

Because Bonn offers much more than being a venue for international conferences such as the Afghanistan Conference which took place on the so-called “Petersberg”.

You may wonder what Bonn offers.

Listen to my answer:

VIDEO !

I hope you got the impression from the video, that Bonn offers multiple choices for all of your five senses. It is not only the music and you may have recognized Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> symphony of Beethoven on the video. Beethoven, because he was born in Bonn.

Bonn was also the hometown of August Macke, a famous painter, a hundred years ago and is a city of sciences with a well-known University. Bonn, that means being at the center of the so-called "Rheinland". There is a saying that people in this area put leisure first and work second. But they imported some Prussians to keep the economy running. You may try to find out if this is true or not.

Bonn – although dating back to the Romans – is a charming and modern city on the river "Rhein" with its famous tales of the "Nibelungen" and the "Loreley".

As we say in Germany: Bonn is small but nice. And Bonn is young. About 10 % of the population are students. And of course, Bonn has its own brewery and is the most northern wine area in Germany.

So, I'm sure that you will feel at ease.

And as Bonn is located in the heart of Europe it is easy to reach. There are good transport links to the airports of Frankfurt, Düsseldorf and Cologne/Bonn. But you can also take the train from Frankfurt Airport to Bonn: a wonderful sightseeing tour of 1 ½ hours through the most beautiful part of the Rhine valley.

Again, you are cordially invited and it will be a great pleasure for me to welcome all of you in Bonn in June 2005.