



News Release

International Competition Network plans for the second decade

ISTANBUL, April 29, 2010 – The Ninth Annual Conference of the International Competition Network (ICN) concluded today with Mr. John Fingleton, the Chair of the ICN Steering Group, saying the ICN remained as vital as ever.

“This network makes a real and vibrant contribution to the consumers of the world. The relationships it builds and sustains between competition agencies from a diverse range of countries help deliver stronger competition and better outcomes for consumers across all our economies.”

The Turkish Competition Authority hosted the Annual Conference, which was held from April 27-29, 2010 in the culturally rich city of Istanbul, Turkey. Some 500 participants attended, representing more than 80 competition agencies from around the world, and including over 100 NGAs from the legal, business, consumer, and academic communities, and international organizations.

The Annual Conference addressed the successes that the ICN has achieved during its first nine years, as well as challenges it needs to address for its second decade.

Five themes were highlighted for the future work of the ICN:

- Members place huge importance on relationships built through the network
- Convergence should continue to be the ICN’s main goal over the long term
- The needs of younger agencies and agencies in developing countries are a key focus
- The ICN should do less, but better, focusing on implementation and cooperation with other international organizations
- The need to engage with a more diverse range of non-governmental advisers

John Fingleton said the ICN Steering Group would continue to seek feedback from member agencies on the vision for the ICN in its second decade.

NOTES

The Annual Conference highlighted the recent work of the ICN working groups on cartels, competition agency effectiveness, competition advocacy, mergers, and unilateral conduct. It also showcased the work of the ICN Vice Chairs: Advocacy and Implementation, International Coordination and Outreach. This year's accomplishments include:

- Updated Chapters of the Anti-Cartel Enforcement Manual on Digital Evidence Gathering, and Cartel Case Initiation;
- Chapter on “Strategic Planning and Prioritisation” of the Competition Agency Practice Manual;
- Draft Market Studies Good Practice Handbook;
- New Recommended Practices for Merger Analysis on market definition and failing firm/exiting assets;
- Report on Refusal to Deal;
- Promotion of the Advocacy and Implementation Network's Support Program;
- Information about technical assistance and competition related studies planned for 2010; and
- Outreach Toolkit and Study, and ICN Blog and “Virtual University”.

The Tenth ICN Annual Conference will be held in The Hague, Netherlands, during the month of May 17-20, 2011.

For more information, please visit the ICN Web site at www.internationalcompetitionnetwork.org.

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