

THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION NETWORK LAYS THE GROUNDWORK FOR FURTHER CONVERGENCE

Marrakech, Morocco April 25, 2014 – The 13th Annual Conference of the International Competition Network (ICN) successfully concluded this week. Approximately 520 participants from 90 jurisdictions, including 130 other representatives and stakeholders such as the business community, legal and economic professionals, international organisations and academics attended this year’s conference which was held from April 23 until April 25.

The ICN comprises of 128 competition agencies from 115 jurisdictions. Andreas Mundt, President of the German Bundeskartellamt and the ICN Chair since September 2013, succeeded Mr. Eduardo Pérez Motta, former Chairman of Mexico’s Federal Competition Commission.

Mr. Mundt acknowledged the increased recognition of the ICN worldwide which was reflected in the growing and heterogeneous membership of the ICN. “It has produced an encyclopedic collection of written work products containing vast knowledge about competition enforcement around the world. No other forum can provide such a basis for international cooperation among competition authorities.” To ensure the steady and further success of the ICN, Mr. Mundt has set out three priorities for the upcoming year, namely focus, inclusiveness and implementation.

Mr. Mundt was delighted that the conference fostered in particular the aim of inclusiveness. “Holding the annual conference in Marrakech provided an excellent opportunity to involve participants from Africa and the Mediterranean.” To underline the dedication of the ICN to include as many authorities as possible, the conference offered French speaking sessions and translations of all the panels into French.

The Moroccan Competition Council presented this year’s Special Project dealing with State-owned Enterprises and competition. At the conference, the ICN Steering Group also introduced and the members approved the past year’s work products. Member authorities and non-governmental participants took notice of the high level work products, which were completed in the past ICN year including:

- Recommended Practices on Predatory Pricing Analysis Pursuant to Unilateral Conduct Laws;
- Recommended Practices on Competition Assessment;
- Further work on the Investigative Process Project that was launched in 2012;
- A common Leniency Waiver Template and Explanatory Note;
- Updates of the Anti-Cartel Enforcement Manual and the Agency Practice Manual;
- An Interim Report on International Cooperation in Mergers; and
- Two new interactive training modules for the ICN's Curriculum Project, including a basis course on introduction to cartels and a module on exclusive dealing.

The 13th Annual Conference once more allowed members and other stakeholders to have in-depth discussions of work products already produced and future topics and thereby reinforced the focus of the ICN and its Working Groups. By this the ICN will be able to meet members and non-governmental advisers’ needs and provides one of the most important forums for experience

sharing and an informal venue for maintaining regular contacts to address practical competition concerns.

In the next year, the work of the Working Groups will include work on merger remedies, guidance on abusive practises, work on cooperation and the investigative process project. Also the ICN will continue to hold workshops in the areas of cartels, competition advocacy, agency effectiveness, mergers, and unilateral conduct.

The next ICN Annual Conference will be held in Sydney, Australia from April 28- May 1, 2015, hosted by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

For more information regarding this Network, please visit the ICN website at www.internationalcompetitionnetwork.org

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