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Budapest, 16 January 2013

## **Seminar in European Competition Law for National Judges**

### **Restrictive Agreements: Cases, Trends and Open Questions**

**22-23 February 2013, Budapest, Hungary**

The Hungarian Competition Authority (GVH) and the OECD-GVH Regional Centre for Competition in Budapest (Hungary) (“RCC”) will organise its next competition law seminar for European competition law judges on 22-23 February 2013. The seminar receives funding from the European Union.

The seminar will discuss recent developments in European and national competition cases involving restrictive agreements, including vertical agreements. Following the approach of the November 2012 competition law seminar for judges, this seminar will explore open questions and broader trends in European competition law and their effects on restrictive agreements cases, with the same emphasis on the influence of economic concepts on case analysis, debates about policy goals and their impact on case outcomes, and the effects of all this on private enforcement before national courts.

A number of restrictive agreements cases by the European Courts have raised difficult questions and created uncertainty about the proper analytical standards, in particular cases involving vertical restraints such as restrictions on online sales. We will use the seminar to explore several unanswered questions that are likely to come up before national courts, including what type of restrictions can be presumed to be harmful, when restrictions can be considered “objectively justified,” the role of economic analysis in cases involving territorial restraints, the evaluation of evidence to assess anticompetitive effects and efficiencies, and the role of economic experts. Case examples will also include some recent cases decided by national courts.

Speakers will include David Bailey (Kings College, London), Zoltán Bara (Hungarian Competition Authority), Frank Meier-Rigaud (Lille University, Department of Economics & Quantitative Methods), Andreas Reindl (Leuphana University, Lueneburg) and Simone Warwick (OECD).

Like the November 2012 seminar, the event will assume a certain familiarity with key economic concepts and we encourage in particular judges with some experience in competition law and competition law cases to attend. Starting in November 2013, the OECD-GVH RCC will offer a series of three seminars that provide an introduction to competition law, including basic legal and economic concepts, and we encourage judges with less experience in this area of the law to attend in particular these seminars.

This seminar will be limited to approximately 30 participants and therefore have extra emphasis on active participation and interaction among participants. There will be ample opportunity to exchange ideas and views with expert speakers and other participants, including through discussions in breakout groups. Participants will be encouraged to share any experience from actual cases they have been involved in with other judges.

The event is open to all judges at national courts and prosecutors in EU member countries and Croatia and the FYR of Macedonia. Experience in the field of competition legislation and good command of English are the conditions of registration.

Participation will be completely free of charge. The costs will be covered by EU and GVH funds.

Participants will be accommodated in the Art'Otel Budapest, which will also serve as the seminar's venue. The organizers will take care of the reservations and cover the costs of the accommodation for 3 nights, 21, 22 and 23 February 2013.

Participants will be invited to a welcome dinner on 22 February and will receive lunch on 22 and 23 February.

Participants shall arrange their travel themselves, but the organizers will reimburse the (economy class) travel costs after the seminar. The local transportation costs (taxi, airport shuttle, public transport) and the cost of travel insurances will not be reimbursed.

Please note that the condition of the reimbursement is the actual participation in the entire seminar. If someone cannot participate for any reason whatsoever we cannot reimburse the ticket costs.

The national judicial training centres of the following countries offered to directly participate in the selection of applicants: Croatia, Estonia, FYR of Macedonia, Lithuania and Romania. Please contact your national training centre for more information if you would like to register from any of these countries. If your country is not listed above please send your registration form directly to the RCC.

We reserve one place for applicants from each country, but in the end free places will be filled up irrespective of nationality. We will decide about the applications on the basis of the individuals' work experience and the group's composition, as we would like to have a heterogeneous group to incite the exchange of ideas and experiences among participants.

The registration deadline is 31 January. Applicants will be informed until 7 February if their registration has been accepted.

Should you have any questions about the event, please contact Ms. Andrea DALMAY (dalmay.andrea@gvh.hu, phone: +36-1-472-8880). Please forward this announcement to your colleagues, who may be interested in participating.