



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
13th Session, 8 – 10 July 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Nicaragua¹

Wednesday, 10 July (15:00 - 18:00)

Room XVIII, *Palais des Nations*, Geneva

The Peer Review on Competition Law and Policy is an exercise in which a country voluntarily has its Competition legal framework and institutional set-up evaluated by other countries. It presents a unique opportunity to discover strengths and weaknesses of the country's competition system, to draw lessons from past experiences, to examine risks and opportunities and finally to propose improvements for the future. The fact that those conducting the evaluation are peer authorities is very convenient, because it allows the sharing of knowledge and experiences, while fostering international cooperation at the same time.

PROCOMPETENCIA, the Nicaraguan Competition Agency voluntarily requested to be Peer Reviewed during the Twelfth Session of the IGE in 2012. Thus, Ms. Pamela Sittenfeld, Competition expert and ex-Executive Director of Costa Rica's Commission for the Promotion of Competition (COPROCOM) and Mr. Gustavo Valbuena, Public Law specialist and ex-Superintendent of Industry and Commerce in Colombia (SIC) were commissioned by UNCTAD to elaborate the report that will serve as a basis for the peer review examination under the Thirteen Session of the IGE in 2013. The fact finding visit to Nicaragua took place in October 2012 with substantial support provided by PROCOMPETENCIA and the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch of UNCTAD.

The examination panel will include representatives of other competition authorities. In addition, speakers from the floor will be invited to contribute to the discussion. The objective of the session is to examine Nicaragua's competition situation and to provide an opportunity to all participants to exchange mutually enriching views and experiences.

The findings and policy recommendations of the Peer Review will be used to design a tailor-made technical assistance program for Nicaragua with the objective to enhance its competition legal and institutional framework, as well as PROCOMPETENCIA's capacity to effectively enforce the Competition Law and strengthen free competition in Nicaragua. Development agencies, technical assistance providers, bilateral donors and international organizations are cordially invited to support this program.

¹ UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2013/2

Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Nicaragua

Wednesday, 10 July, 2013 (15:00 - 18:00)

Room XVIII

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 15:00 - 15:05 | Introduction , by UNCTAD Secretariat |
| 15:05 - 15:10 | Introduction of the Nicaraguan Delegation and the Review Panel, by the Chairperson of the Session <i>Ms. Sylvann Aquilina Zahra, Director General, Office for Competition, Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA)</i> Nicaraguan Delegation: <i>Mr. Luis Humberto Guzmán, President of PROCOMPETENCIA</i> <i>Mr. Cairo Amador, Commissioner, PROCOMPETENCIA</i> <i>Mr. Haraxa Sandino, Principal Legal Officer, PROCOMPETENCIA</i> <i>Mr. Gustavo Torres, Competition Prosecutor, PROCOMPETENCIA</i> Panel Members: <i>Sr. Russell Damtoft, Associate Director, Federal Trade Commission (FTC), EEUU</i> <i>Mr. Germán Bacca, Deputy Superintendent for Competition, Superintendence of Industry and Commerce (SIC), Colombia</i> <i>Mr. Hebert Tassano, President, National Institute for Competition Defense and Intellectual Property Protection (Indecopi), Peru</i> |
| Part I | |
| 15:10 - 15:40 | Presentation of the Peer Review Report of Nicaragua by Consultants: <i>Ms. Pamela Sittenfeld and Mr. Gustavo Valbuena</i> |
| 15:40 - 15:55 | General Statement by the Nicaraguan Delegation |
| 15:55 - 17:00 | Questions and Answers: Successive rounds of questions from panelists and speakers from the floor |
| Part II | |
| 17:00 - 17:30 | Interactive Session: Questions from the Nicaraguan Delegation to panelists and other delegations |
| Part III | |
| 17:30 - 17:45 | Presentation of UNCTAD's proposal for a Technical Assistance Project for Nicaragua , by UNCTAD Secretariat |
| 17:45 - 18:00 | Wrap-up <i>Mrs. Sylvann Aquilina Zahra</i> Closing remarks <i>Mr. Luis Humberto Guzmán</i> |