



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
XIII Session, 8-10 July 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

Side-meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Competition Forum (EMCF)

“Competition Advocacy in the Euro-Mediterranean Region” Workshop

**July 11, 2013 (9:00 – 12:00)
Room XII (1st floor), Palais des Nations, Geneva**

In December 2011 a meeting was held in Vienna in the margins of the event on the "Application of competition law in the Mediterranean countries", organized by the Austrian Competition Authority in cooperation with UNCTAD and the OECD, which dealt with the creation of a platform to enhance cooperation in competition matters in the Mediterranean region.

The idea was then presented in a meeting organized in the margins of the 12th IGE on Law and Competition Policy in Geneva in July 2012. During the open debate, the structure that the cooperation initiative could adopt was widely discussed.

The debates resumed during a two-day meeting held in Rabat on the 15th and 16th of November 2012. The meeting consisted in three roundtables on the needs of competition authorities in the region, organizational issues of the cooperation initiative, and the work program for the following two years.

Challenges identified had primarily to do with the promotion of competition culture in the region and with the improvement of competition legal frameworks, institutional set-ups and level of expertise. To face these challenges, a regional platform to facilitate the exchange of experiences among the different jurisdictions was regarded as very useful. The possible objectives, organization and activities of the regional cooperation were then discussed and the following points agreed upon: to create an informal network, the “Euro-Mediterranean Competition Forum (EMCF), to be revised in a conference in Malta in 2014; to appoint a provisional Coordination Committee with the Austrian, Moroccan, Tunisian and Turkish competition authorities, as well as UNCTAD and a representative of the civil society; to keep the Forum open and inclusive but to set eligibility criteria for members of civil society; to deal with four topics within the following two years: advocacy, objective conditions allowing the emergence of independent competition authorities, the consultative role of competition authorities, and cooperation alternatives on cases/topics of cross-border importance; and to hold two workshops in 2013 (in the margins of UNCTAD’s IGE in July and in Tunisia in November).

The First EMCF Workshop organized in the margins of UNCTAD’s 13th session of the IGE on Competition Law and Policy will deal with competition advocacy in the region, providing an opportunity to share experiences in conveying the “competition message” to certain constituencies in the private and public sectors, identifying successful and unsuccessful strategies and tools.

Interpretation English-French will be provided. The draft agenda of the Workshop is as follows:

Draft agenda

9-9:15	Introduction: Progress report on the work of the EMCF Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Benamour (Moroccan Competition Authority)- Mr. Thanner (Austrian Competition Authority)
9:15-9:30	Competition advocacy challenges for developing and emerging countries Speaker: Mr. Hassan Qaqaya (UNCTAD)
9:30-11:15	1. Roundtable on Advocacy to Business Speaker: Mr. Juan Luis Crucelegui Commentators: Mr. Khaled Attia and Mr. Patrick Krauskopf Discussion, including presentations by ¹ : <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Egyptian Competition Authority- Maltese Competition Authority- Austrian Competition Authority- Russian Competition Authority 2. Roundtable on Advocacy to Policy and Law Makers and Sector Regulators Speaker: Ms. Pamela Sittenfeld Commentators: Mr. Krzysztof Jaros and Mr. Francisco Marcos Discussion, including presentations by ² : <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Turkish Competition Authority- French Competition Authority- Romanian Competition Authority- Maltese Competition Authority
11:15-11:45	General discussion / Q&A
11:45-12:00	Future work program for the EMCF and closing of the session

¹ Participants wishing to make a brief presentation are kindly invited to contact Patricia Cordovilla at: Patricia.Cordovilla@unctad.org

² Vid. supra 1