



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
XIV Session, 8-10 July 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

Side-meeting

Third Workshop of the Euro-Mediterranean Competition Forum (EMCF)

The Independence and Accountability of the Competition Authorities

July 10, 2014, from 14:30 to 17:30

Room XXVI (1st floor), Palais des Nations, Geneva

In December 2011 and 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, a meeting was held to explore the possibility of creating 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 XII IGE on Competition Law and 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 the 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 and institutional set-ups and level of expertise for competition law enforcement. 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 appoint a Coordination Committee with the Austrian, Moroccan, Tunisian and Turkish competition authorities as members, as well as UNCTAD and a representative of the civil society; to keep the Forum open and inclusive; 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 was then organized in the margins of UNCTAD's XIII Session of the IGE on Competition Law and Policy on the 11th of July 2013 and focused on Competition Advocacy (for more information see <http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=348>). The Second EMCF Workshop was held in Tunis on the 28th and 29th of November of 2013 and dealt with the Relationship between Competition Authorities and Sector Regulators (for more information see <http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=348>).

The EMCF met again in Paris in February 2014 to discuss about organizational matters. A decision was made there to keep the EMCF an informal network for the time being, and to hold a new Workshop in Geneva, in the margins of the XIV Session of IGE, on the *Independence and Accountability of Competition Authorities*.

Agenda of the Workshop

<http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=575>

14:30-14:45	<p><u>Welcoming addresses</u></p> <p>Mr Hassan Qaqaya Head of CCPB at UNCTAD and member of the EMCF Coordination Committee</p> <p>Mr Abdelali Benamour Head of the Moroccan Competition Authority and Co-Chair of the EMCF Coordination Committee)</p>
14:45-15:30	<p><u>Introduction to the topic</u></p> <p>Mr Jacques Steenbergen Head of the Belgian Competition Authority</p> <p>Ms Eleanor Fox Walter J. Derenberg Professor of Trade Regulation at New York University School of Law</p>
15:30-17:15	<p><u>Sharing of experiences and open debate</u></p> <p>Interventions by Competition Authorities and NGAs</p> <p><i>Please inform before June 23rd (Patricia.Cordovilla@unctad.org) whether you intend to make a presentation during this part of the meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Written contributions are very much welcomed (please send them to the email address above before July 1st) but no ppts will be shown during this part of the meeting</i></p>
17:15-17:30	<p><u>Future work program for the EMCF and closing of the session</u></p> <p>Mr Theodor Thanner Head of the Austrian Competition Authority and Co-Chair of the EMCF Coordination Committee</p>

NB: Interpretation English<>French will be provided