



Reference: AL/1244 /2014

Budapest, 17 December 2014

Seminar on European Competition Law for National Judges

Competition Economics for Judges

19-21 February 2015, Budapest, Hungary

The Hungarian Competition Authority (GVH) and the OECD-GVH Regional Centre for Competition in Budapest (Hungary) (“RCC”) will hold their next seminar on European competition law for national judges on 19-21 February 2015 in Budapest, Hungary.

The seminar will receive funding from the European Union.

The February 2015 competition law seminar will provide judges with an opportunity to explore in greater depth the economic principles underlying competition cases, the methods used by economists, and their application in cases before national courts. The seminar will focus in particular on the economics of abuse of dominance cases, distribution restraints (such as restrictions on internet sales), and claims for damages. The goal of the seminar is to make judges more familiar with economic concepts, to be more confident when presented with economic based arguments, and to communicate more effectively with economic court experts and economic expert witnesses.

The seminar will emphasise both aspects – “competition economics” and “for judges.” Thus, we are not aiming to offer a series of lectures on text book microeconomics. Rather, we want to discuss concepts of competition economics as they are relevant for the work of judges and focus on methods used by economists as they can be relevant in cases before national courts. Short exercises will be included to illustrate the application of economic principles and methods in hypothetical cases. By putting competition economics in the context of case examples and case studies, we want to ensure that the topic is addressed from a judicial perspective and accessible for judges.

Speakers will include economists from competition authorities, academia, and consultancies who have experience in presenting economic evidence in court. The panel will also include at least one judge to address the issue of economic evidence from a judicial perspective. This seminar has been scheduled for 2 1/2 days (Thursday afternoon to Saturday midday), with shorter daily sessions, in order to make it easier for participants to absorb the information and actively participate in the seminar.

The seminar will be limited to approximately 30 participants and therefore extra emphasis will be placed 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 their experiences from actual cases they have been involved in with other judges.

The event is open to judges and prosecutors dealing with competition cases on a national level in EU member countries and the FYR of Macedonia.

A good command of English is a condition of registration.

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

Participants will be accommodated in a hotel in Budapest, which will also serve as the seminar's venue. The event organisers will take care of the reservations and cover the costs of the accommodation for 4 nights on 18, 19, 20 and 21 February 2015.

Participants will be invited to a welcome dinner on 19 February and will receive lunch on 19, 20 and 21 February.

Participants shall arrange their own travel and their travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed by the event organisers after the seminar. The cost of local transportation (taxi, airport shuttle, public transport) and the cost of travel insurance will not be reimbursed.

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

The national judicial training centres of the following countries have offered to directly participate in the selection of applicants: Croatia, Estonia, FYR of Macedonia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia. 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.

One place will be reserved for one applicant from each country, but if free spaces remain these will be filled up irrespective of nationality. Applications will be judged on the basis of the individual applicant's work experience and judicial tasks, as well as on the group's composition as we would like to have a heterogeneous group in order to promote the exchange of ideas and experiences among participants.

The registration deadline is **9 January 2015**. Applicants will be informed by 14 January 2015 if their registration has been accepted.

Should you have any questions about the event, please contact Ms Andrea DALMAY (dalmai.andrea@gvh.hu, phone: +36-1-472-8880).

Please forward this announcement to your colleagues who may be interested in participating.