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

### **The Role of National Judges in Antitrust Litigation in the Light of the EU Damages Directive**

**24-25 February 2017, Budapest, Hungary**

The Hungarian Competition Authority (GVH) and the OECD-GVH Regional Centre for Competition in Budapest (Hungary) (RCC) will hold a competition law seminar for judges on **'The Role of National Judges in Antitrust Litigation in the Light of the EU Damages Directive'** on 24-25 February 2017 in Budapest, Hungary.

The seminar will receive funding from the European Union.

Directive 2014/104/EU on antitrust damages actions set the 27th December 2016 as the deadline for Member States to implement it in their legal systems. National judges will therefore have to take into consideration the new rules derived from this text.

This seminar will examine the impact that the Directive will have on the tasks that national judges have to undertake in antitrust litigation. Pursuant to this objective, participants will be provided with the necessary tools and information needed in order to better understand the Directive's provisions and ensure a coherent and consistent application of EU law in this field by national courts.

It will cover the main features of the Damages Directive, such as the disclosure of evidence, the passing on defence, the quantification of harm, and limitation periods. Moreover, to assist national judges in the implementation of these rules and concepts, co-operation mechanisms and preliminary reference proceedings are available and these will be addressed during the seminar. Finally, we will examine matters of competence from jurisdictional issues to effects of national decisions in other Member States.

Key national cases and relevant EU case law will be presented and discussed by experts in the field. In addition, participants will be actively involved through hypothetical exercises and will be engaged in Q/A sessions with the experts.

We encourage judges who have experience in competition law to participate. The event is open to judges, prosecutors and apprentice judges dealing with competition law cases on a national level in EU member countries, the FYR of Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Iceland.

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 Continental Hotel 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 3 nights on 23, 24, and 25 February 2017. Participants will be invited to a welcome dinner on 24 February and will receive lunch on 24 and 25 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, Slovenia and Bulgaria. 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 via email directly to Andrea Dalmay at the RCC (dalmay.andrea@gvh.hu).

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 **05 December 2016**. Applicants will be informed by **15 December 2016** 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.