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

### **Seminar Series: Competition Law Fundamentals**

#### **Seminar I: Restrictive Agreements – Basic Economic and Legal Concepts**

**15-16 November 2013, Budapest, Hungary**

The Hungarian Competition Authority (GVH) and the OECD-GVH Regional Centre for Competition in Budapest (Hungary) (“RCC”) will organise its next competition law seminar for European competition law judges on 15-16 November 2013. The seminar will receive funding from the European Union.

The seminar will be the first of three “Competition Law Fundamentals” seminars, which we will offer between November 2013 and May 2014. The goal of the Competition Law Fundamentals seminars is to provide European judges with less experience in competition law with an opportunity to become familiar with the concepts and terminology used in typical competition law cases and to become better prepared to organise and decide cases involving issues of European or national competition law. The seminars will discuss basic economic concepts, legal rules, and leading cases in all major areas of competition law enforcement, including restrictive agreements, abuse of dominant position, and private claims for damages. In addition, the seminars will focus on practical issues such as case management and the evaluation of evidence.

The seminar on 15 and 16 November 2013 will focus on both horizontal and vertical agreements. There will be a discussion of the basic economic concepts that are relevant in restrictive agreement cases and other areas of competition law, such as market power and consumer welfare, legal analysis of when an agreement “restricts competition” and when it brings about relevant efficiencies, and relevant secondary legislation such as block exemptions and the European “de minimis” notice. The seminar will rely heavily on European cases and case hypotheticals to illustrate key concepts and to discuss how economic and legal questions can be resolved in actual cases before courts.

We encourage those judges who have less experience in competition law and who have not already attended several previous RCC seminars to participate. Registration for all three seminars is encouraged, although it is also possible to register for individual seminars.

The next seminars in this series will be held in February (abuse of dominance) and in May (cooperation with the European Commission and private claims for damages).

This seminar will be limited to approximately 30 participants and there will therefore be an extra emphasis 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 all judges at national courts and prosecutors 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 the Art'Otel Budapest, which will also serve as the seminar's venue. The organisers will take care of the reservations and cover the costs of the accommodation for 3 nights, 14, 15 and 16 November 2013.

Participants will be invited to a welcome dinner on 15 November and will receive lunch on 15 and 16 November.

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

Please note that actual participation in the entire seminar is a precondition of reimbursement. If someone cannot participate for any reason whatsoever we cannot reimburse the ticket 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 and Romania. 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.

We will reserve one place for applicants from each country and any remaining free places will be filled up irrespective of nationality. The applications will be judged on the basis of the individuals' 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. Applications to participate in all three seminars will be given preference, although individual applications will also be considered.

The registration deadline is 30 September. Applicants will be informed by 10 October 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.