France: The Autorité de la concurrence hosts first ICN Advocacy Workshop

The first ICN Advocacy Workshop took place in Paris on 26-27 October 2012 with an audience of more than 120 participants from 50 different jurisdictions.

The Workshop addressed substantial policy issues - most notably regarding advocacy activities directed to Governments - with a plenary session on ‘Competition impact assessment of legislation’. The plenary session collected feedback from members on a project proposed by Eduardo Perez Motta, Chair of the ICN, which involves the creation of a work product to complement the OECD’s Competition Assessment Toolkit. Based on the feedback received during the Workshop and the recent publication of its “Guide for competition assessment of draft legislation”, the Autorité de la concurrence will circulate a draft project, in cooperation with other ICN members.

Two Advocacy Working Group projects, on ‘The Benefits of Competition’ and on ‘Competition Culture’, respectively led by the Portuguese Competition Authority and the Competition Commission of Mauritius, have also been launched during the Workshop. In addition, the ongoing project on ‘Working with Courts and Judges’ led by the Polish Office of Competition and Consumer Protection, has also been promoted in the Workshop.

In discussions on ‘Advocacy and institutional reform’ and ‘The role of the ICN in competition advocacy’, it was explored how the ICN can act as an advocate within the network, in support of its members, as well as outside the network, as a possible advocate for competition in the international arena.

Further discussions were held on subjects of special interest to Non-Governmental Advisors (NGAs) with a session on ‘Advocacy: the role of NGAs’, to younger agencies with a session on ‘The ABCs of advocacy’ and to more mature agencies with a session on ‘Advocacy and economics’.

The Advocacy Working Group is co-chaired by the Autorité de la concurrence, the Portuguese Competition Authority and the Competition Commission of Mauritius.

See further information on the ICN 2012 Advocacy Workshop (in English).