

Presidential Welcome



Dear Readers,

What you have before you is a special thematic leaflet of *Versenytükö* ("Mirror of Competition"), a quarterly published by the Competition Culture Centre of the Hungarian Competition Authority (the GVH). It is the international conference held today about "Fighting cartels – Why and how?" that has given us the opportunity of publishing this leaflet. As you may see from the programme, the subject of the conference is very timely and complex. The adverse effects cartels exert on competition and hence on consumer welfare need to be analysed to make it clear how much a comprehensive action to combat cartels is necessary. Illegal co-operations of undertakings to prevent competition hinder the lowering of prices, innovation, quality improvement and the diversification of assortment. Objective of the conference is to identify the ways and methods available for competition authorities and other state organs challenging cartels and, on the other side, for competitors that wish to keep away from agreements of this kind or to eliminate

cartels. Conference speakers from both Hungary and abroad will make known their views and experience on how to destroy cartels.

In addition to the oral presentations, the GVH has issued the publication you hold in your hands as a written contribution to a further analysis of the topic.

Apart from analysing cartels, the leaflet briefly introduces you the Competition Culture Centre (CCC) and the OECD-Hungary Regional Centre for Competition in Budapest (RCC), an institution jointly operated by the OECD and the GVH, by means of which it brings you closer to and gives an insight into the activities other than competition supervision of the GVH. The CCC is a unit within the GVH, the sole responsibility of which is to promote the spread and development of competition culture. The tasks of the CCC are defined in its annual work plan, which can be found on the Internet homepage of the GVH. It gives me great pleasure to see and greet heads, sitting in the audience, of competition authorities also from RCC target countries.

It is our intention to be seen from the programme, repeatedly to grant possibility (altogether three times in the course of the conference) to the participants for putting their questions or making oral contributions to the discussion, promoting in this manner the creation of a common understanding. In the hope that we will get far ahead on the way towards this objective, I wish all of us much success in achieving this.

Budapest, 16 February 2007

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Nagy Zoltán'.

Zoltán Nagy
President of the Hungarian
Competition Authority

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