Global Forum on Competition

-- Letter of Invitation to Non-Members --

28 February - 1 March 2013

This letter of invitation sent to non-members regarding the 2013 Global Forum on Competition is circulated to delegates FOR INFORMATION.

Contact: Mr. Greg Bounds, Principal Administrator,
Tel: +33 1 45 24 84 43; Email: gregory.bounds@oecd.org

JT03328916

Complete document available on OLIS in its original format
This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.
Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

On behalf of the OECD, I am writing to invite you to attend the twelfth meeting of our Global Forum on Competition to be held in Paris on Thursday 28 February and Friday 1 March 2013. The Forum brings together high-level competition officials from around the world. Close to ninety Competition Authorities from Asia, Africa, Europe, Australasia and the Americas currently participate, alongside representatives from international and regional organisations as well as representatives from business and civil society.

The GFC provides an opportunity for policy dialogue between OECD member countries and non-members. The agenda for next year’s meeting takes into account the views expressed by participants at the last meeting as well as responses to the evaluation questionnaire.

The agenda will be organised around the following main topics: i) Competition and poverty reduction; ii) Competition issues in television and broadcasting; and iii) Key findings from the OECD/ICN survey on international enforcement co-operation. A more detailed agenda will be circulated later on in the year.

Written contributions

Competition and Poverty Reduction: This full day session will build on discussions first held at the 2012 OECD-IDB Latin American Competition Forum on how competition can help lower the prices of essential goods and services for the poor and what competition authorities can do to help. The session will also examine how competition policy can help reduce poverty by stimulating employment, innovation and growth. The session will be based around plenary discussions with a series of presentations from, and exchanges with, a panel of experts and country representatives. It will also draw on the country experiences as detailed in the country contributions.

Competition Issues in Television and Broadcasting: This session will consider policy responses and regulatory challenges in the television and broadcasting industry. Broadcasting lies at the intersection of both media and telecommunications, and therefore shares regulatory and competition issues with both. The on-going convergence of traditional broadcasting with new media poses new challenges for developing and developed countries alike.
For both sessions, a call for contributions will be sent to you by early November. This will provide you with some background information on the subject and a number of suggested questions to guide your submissions. To assist the Secretariat with the detailed planning of the sessions, we would be grateful if you could confirm by 16 November 2012 whether you will be preparing a written contribution for the two sessions. The deadline for the written contributions (in electronic Word version, 5 pages maximum in English or French) is 14 December 2012. Your written contributions will help to focus the discussions on key issues of concern and are a means of sharing your experiences and views with the participants at the meeting and others via OECD publications. The Secretariat will prepare background notes on both topics which will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

The third session will focus on the OECD/ICN survey on international enforcement co-operation. This session will consider key findings from the OECD/ICN survey on international co-operation that was launched by the two institutions last summer. This session will be an opportunity for delegations to discuss the status of international co-operation and possible ways forward for a more effective and efficient enforcement system at an international level. The results of the survey will also inform decisions on future work that the OECD and the ICN will undertake to foster more and better international co-operation between enforcement agencies. The report will be circulated to participants in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Greg Bounds will be responsible for the Global Forum next year. His contact details are telephone number: +33 1 45 24 84 43; fax number: +33 1 45 24 96 95; and e-mail address: gregory.bounds@oecd.org. Please do not hesitate to contact him if you have any substantive questions regarding the Forum.

Please send your advance notice of contributions to Ms. Jessica Escaip (GFC Project Coordinator, Competition Division) at the following email address: jessica.escaip@oecd.org.

Administrative details and practical information are provided in Annex I as well as on our Forum website www.oecd.org/competition/globalforum. The completed participation form (Annex II) should be sent to Jessica Escaip no later than 14 December 2012. She will also reply to any questions relating to documentation and visas at the above email address or tel. +33 1 45 24 45 45.

Thank you very much in advance for your kind co-operation. We look forward to seeing you at the Global Forum meeting next February.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Hilary Jennings
Head of Global Relations for Competition
ANNEX I

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

We would greatly appreciate receiving by 14 December 2012 an early indication of whether you will attend as well as your contact information (please complete and return the participation form in Annex II). Please note that no financial support will be available for your travel to and stay in Paris. We strongly encourage participants lacking the necessary financial resources to seek sources of funding upon receipt of this invitation letter.

The OECD’s website (www.oecd.org/competition/globalforum) will be our vehicle for conveying general information and Forum documentation. As with previous GFCs, contributions received may be distributed through subsequent OECD publications. Accordingly, by submitting your contribution(s), you will be considered to have agreed to grant the OECD the royalty-free publication rights to reproduce your contribution(s) in whatever form and languages it may, in its sole discretion, deem appropriate, and you also will be considered to have agreed to grant the OECD the right to make editorial modifications and/or to shorten the paper without indeed changing its purpose or sense.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Registration

Participation at the Forum is by invitation only. It is restricted to government representatives and selected invitees. When you arrive at the OECD Conference Centre, you will need to present an identity card at the Welcome Desk to obtain your Forum badge. The GFC will start at 9 am sharp on Thursday 28 February 2013. The Welcome Desk will open at 8 am. Given the high number of participants, you should allow a minimum of 30 to 45 minutes for this process. We strongly encourage you to arrive no later than half an hour before the start of the meeting. Late arrivals in the meeting room will not be allowed during the speech of the OECD Secretary-General which will begin at 9 am sharp on Thursday 28 February.

Seating arrangements

Participants will be seated by country/economy in French alphabetical order, followed by international organisations and representatives from business and civil society. Given the large number of countries represented at the Forum, access to seats equipped with a microphone is limited. Each country or organisation will have a minimum of one seat with a microphone. For countries with large delegations, the allocation of more seats equipped with a microphone will be considered. A number of seats without a microphone will also be available at the back of the room.

Documentation

All documentation for the Global Forum on Competition will be available on our website at: www.oecd.org/competition/globalforum. Unless explicitly requested not to do so, we intend to reproduce written contributions on the site. Participants will find the GFC background documentation and the agenda on their table upon their arrival in the meeting room where the Forum will take place. In a bid to be environmentally friendly, we will not circulate paper copies of country contributions in the meeting room. Please bring your own copies with you. Alternatively, participants will be able to access documentation on their personal computers through the OECD’s free Wi-Fi access in the room.
Working Methods

Discussions will be held in the two OECD official languages (English and French), with simultaneous interpretation. The Chairman (and Session Chairs where relevant) will use traffic lights to regulate the timing of interventions. The high number of participants means that participants will need to be disciplined in their interventions in order to allow as many delegates as possible to have the opportunity to speak. Interventions should be as concise as possible, and each intervention will be limited to a maximum of three minutes. Time constraints will not permit the presentation of written contributions. Countries who have contributed in writing will be notified in advance if Session Chairs intend to call upon them to make brief comments on specific points from their written contributions. Likewise, not all countries who have made written contributions will be invited to comment. We will do our best to warn those concerned as soon as feasible, but the late receipt of some country contributions often delays this process. Consequently, countries may not be notified until a few days before, on the eve or on the first day of the Forum. Please carefully check your emails on those days since this will be the only way to communicate efficiently with you. The Secretariat will inform the scheduled speakers of the time allocated to them. They are kindly invited to keep their presentations strictly within the indicated limits.

Press

Journalists may be present in the GF1 Plenary Room during the Opening Session. They will be allowed to stay for the remaining part of the morning. They will be asked to observe Chatham House rules, i.e. they will not quote the names of the country or speaker.

Accommodation, Visas, About the Conference Centre

A list of hotels is provided on the OECD website and bookings may also be made through our booking website. Hotel information and booking facilities are provided for convenience only and do not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the OECD of the services of a particular hotel, nor a guarantee of quality. We suggest that you verify the nature of the services, the applicable rates and any other relevant information directly with the hotel.

European Union citizens do not require a visa for entry into France. For others, depending on your nationality, the length and purpose of your stay in France, a visa may be required before departure. For further information, please consult the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs website. Note that the OECD cannot organise a visa on your behalf and that there are long deadlines to get visas in some countries. A personalised invitation letter can be provided by the OECD for the purpose of getting a visa if necessary.

The OECD Conference Centre provides all necessary facilities including phone booths, free WI-FI access, computers with free Internet access, a bookshop, coffee and snack bars, and Delegates’ restaurant. Please consult the Conference Centre website for more information.

Practical information

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<td>Telephone Area Code</td>
<td>The international code to call France is “+ 33”. When calling from abroad, the number should be dialled without the first “0”. When calling from France, Paris numbers always start with “01” and French cell phone numbers always start with “06”.</td>
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ANNEX II

PARTICIPATION FORM

Global Forum on Competition
Paris, France
28 February – 1 March 2013

Please complete the form below and forward it before 14 December 2012 to:

Jessica ESCHAIP; jessica.eschaip@oecd.org
GFC Project Coordinator
Competition Division
Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs
Phone: +33 (0) 1 45 24 15 15
Fax: +33 (0) 1 45 24 96 95

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<td>VISA INFORMATION</td>
<td>Please note that the OECD cannot organise a visa on your behalf nor provide you with insurance. However, a personalised invitation letter can be provided for the purpose of getting a visa if necessary. Due to long deadlines to get visas in some countries, please indicate below if you need a personalised letter as soon as possible: Yes (<em>) [ ] No (</em>) [ ] (*) Please tick the appropriate box.</td>
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