

Training of National Judges in EC competition Law and Judicial Co-Operation Between National Judges

Island of Rhodes, Greece

4th – 6th July 2011

Rodos Palace Hotel



Rhodes, Greece

Project Description and Objectives

The project aimed at the training of “national judges in the context of the enforcement of the European competition rules, including Articles 101 and 102 of the EC Treaty, and the State Aid rules, and private enforcement of these provisions (particularly the quantification of antitrust damages)” as defined in the call for proposal of the European Commission.

Under Regulation 1/2003, the National Competition Authorities (NCAs) are obliged to apply EC competition law to all cases that may affect inter-state trade. This means that all enforcers are relying on the same law, and the same precedents provided by the European Courts. Any authority that initiates a case under Article 101 or 102 must report that case to the European Competition Network (ECN), the network that links together the Commission and the National Competition Authorities.

The importance of this decentralisation process is immense. National judges are now increasingly required to decide upon competition law issues that arise before the National Competition Authorities and in order to be effective in enforcing competition legislation, they need to be familiar with the topics that this training program includes.

The project focused mainly on the following topics:

- ✓ Understanding of the legal principles and of procedures for ensuring coherence and consistency in the enforcement of the European competition rules including Articles 101 and 102 of the EC Treaty, the European Community Merger Regulation as well as State Aid and private enforcement;
- ✓ Understanding of the economic principles and methods of economic analysis applied to competition cases.