



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

CONFERENCE ON EC COMPETITION LAW FOR THE MALTESE JUDICIARY

A two day conference on the application of European Community Competition Law in Malta was organised by MEUSAC in collaboration with the Maltese Judicial Studies Committee and the UK Competition Appeal Tribunal. This conference was co-financed by the Directorate-General for Competition (DG Comp) of the European Commission which subsidises projects which are intended to strengthen judicial co-operation between national judges and their training with a view to the implementation of Articles 81 and 82 of the EC Treaty. Attending the Conference were judges, led by the Chief Justice Dr. Vincent De Gaetano, magistrates, and judicial assistants. Officials from the Office for Fair Competition, as well as members of the Commission for Fair Trading (the local authority entrusted with the application of the Maltese Competition Act) were also present.

Participants were given an introduction about EC Competition Law and how this is enforced in Malta by the national courts and the Commission for Fair Trading. They were subsequently given an overview of the objectives of Articles 81 and 82 of the EC Treaty, which are the main provisions laying down the principles of EC Competition Law, as well as various other legal instruments. Professor Lino Briguglio, from the Department of Economics of the University of Malta, addressed participants on the economics of Competition Law.

On the second day of the Conference, three speakers from the UK Competition Appeal Tribunal, Adam Scott, Vivien Rose, and David Bailey, examined the relevant Treaty provisions. Professor Eugene Buttigieg, from the Department of European & Comparative Law of the University of Malta, spoke about the consequences of an infringement of EC Competition Law under Maltese law.

The Conference was opened by the Chief Justice Dr. Vincent De Gaetano, who spoke about the duty of judges to keep abreast of developments – either of their own initiative or by attending seminars such as this Conference. He also spoke about the importance of the comparative perspective, especially in the case of EU law given that all twenty seven Member States apply the same law.

The Conference was brought to a close by Dr Vanni Xuereb, Head of MEUSAC, who thanked the participants for their active participation, as well as the Judicial Studies Committee and the Competition Appeal Tribunal, as well as the European Commission that is co-financing the project.

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