

Der Generaldirektor für Wettbewerb

Mr. Hassan Qaqaya Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch Division of International Trade in Goods, Services and Commodities United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Palais de Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland

Vienna, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013

## **Adoption of World Competition Day**

Dear Mr. Qaqaya, Dear Hassan

Following the letter on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012 for the Adoption of World Competition Day on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012 the Federal Austrian Competition Authority would like to join them again in advancing the need for the same.

The World Competition Day would enable all competition law jurisdictions to improve cooperation with domestic and foreign public competition authorities and other stakeholders, in order to increase the efficiency and facilitate antitrust and cartel regulation operations.

Cartel agreements and market power abuses harm competition and can lead to a host of negative effects that result in enormous economic damage. In case of developing countries it is particularly difficult to introduce and enforce competition policies. Therefore we appreciate the topic chosen for 2013, "Adverse Impact of Cartels on the Poor". It is very important that international organizations like UNCTAD and OECD have taken up this topic.

The Authority is interested in strengthening and further improving cooperation with organizations in the field of the competition policy and competition enforcement.

Dr. Theodor Thanner

Director General Austrian Competition Authority