

PRESS RELEASE

The CNMC hosted the annual International Competition Network (ICN) Workshop on Cartel Fighting in Madrid

- Authorities from 60 countries shared their know-how and experiences to enhance cartel enforcement in a globalised world
- Workshops focused on a better coordination to fight international cartels operating under several jurisdictions and more sophisticated illegal practices
- Agencies discussed the relative effectiveness of different deterrent tools, especially the quantity of fines, sanctions to executives that could reach the privation of freedom, and compliance programs.
- Participants addressed the connections between cartels and corruption

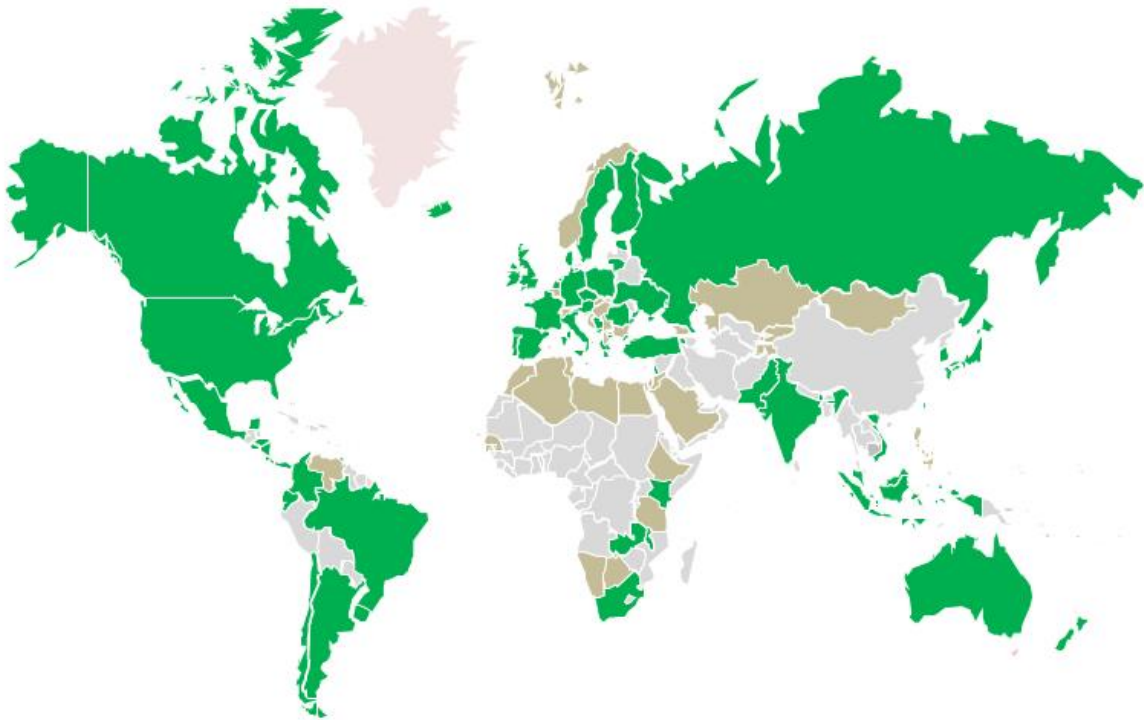
Madrid, 7 October 2016. [The Spanish National Authority for Markets and Competition \(CNMC\) hosted the annual International Competition Network \(ICN\) Cartel Workshop \(Enhancing Cartel Enforcement\) in Madrid.](#) During this event, representatives of authorities from 60 countries exchanged best practices and shared experiences in order to improve their effectiveness in the fight against cartels.

[The International Competition Network \(ICN\)](#) is a network which brings together competition authorities from all around the world with the common aim of improving competition law enforcement, enhancing the fight against antitrust practices, making proposals for common practices and boosting cooperation among the competition authorities.

The ICN is organized in working groups (mergers, unilateral conduct...), among which the cartel working group stands out as one particularly relevant, as it focuses on fighting these most harmful of anticompetitive practices. In an increasingly connected world, where cartels operate using very sophisticated methods, sharing best practices and tools of investigation is essential for competition authorities.

The 2016 ICN Cartel Working Group, kindly hosted by the CNMC, has brought together 150 delegates from 60 international competition authorities, and 50 non-governmental advisors (NGAs) to the ICN –mostly private practitioners working for law firms, but also representatives of international organizations, industry and consumer groups, and academics– who work in close collaboration with the ICN to help achieving its goals.

Reproducción permitida solo si se cita la fuente.



(Geographical distribution of the attendees –registered countries in green; non-registered in brown and countries not belonging to the ICN in grey). Source: CNMC.

During the sessions, the following topics were addressed:

- Strategies and tools used for the investigation of cartels, specifically the improvement of leniency programs, dawn raids and formal tools for cartel detection, bid rigging prosecution or covert investigation techniques.
- The relation between public and private enforcement of competition law, with particular emphasis on damages claims and leniency programs.
- The coordination between competition authorities in order to improve the effectiveness of the fight against international cartels in a global economy and in a multijurisdictional context
- Fines on companies and their executives used as tools to achieve deterrence, as well as other measures such as the possibility of using freedom privation and disqualification for managers, compliance programs and international agreements.
- Finally, relationships between cartels and corruption were explored.

Reproducción permitida solo si se cita la fuente.

A total of 275 delegates attended a three-day workshop in Madrid. The 2017 ICN Workshop on Cartels will be hosted by the Canadian Competition Authority in Ottawa (Canada).

The fight against cartels is a top priority for the CNMC. In 2015 the CNMC unveiled 14 cartels and imposed fines of € 549 million. In the first three quarters of 2016 the CNMC has dismantled 8 cartels and imposed fines of almost € 170 million.

The CNMC operates a [Leniency Programme](#) for the detection of cartels, whereby companies or executives that provide information about a cartel in which they participated might receive full or partial immunity from fines. They can submit orally or written statements at the CNMC's headquarters.

The CNMC has set up a public e-mail for [“whistle-blowers”](#) which can be used by any company or citizen that can provide information about anticompetitive infringements.

Reproducción permitida solo si se cita la fuente.