

Certificate Course on "EU Competition Law" inaugurated at GNLU

Gandhinagar, Aug 27, 2019: A four-day Certificate Course on “EU Competition Law” was inaugurated at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) on August 26. Professor (Dr) Stephanie Rohlfing-Dijoux from Paris University Nanterre will conduct the course.

In his inaugural address, GNLU Director, Dr S. Shanthakumar said that Competition law is emerging as a lucrative career option for young aspiring lawyers in India. He said that the erstwhile Competition Appellate Tribunal (COMPAT) had its own bar which had less than 50 advocates as its members.

Emphasizing the importance of knowledge of European Competition (EU) Law for the students and practitioners in India, Dr Shanthakumar said, “The EU competition law has influenced competition law in different jurisdictions across the globe and India is no exception. The Indian competition regime is based largely on the jurisprudence developed in the EU. The Competition Commission of India looks towards EU law while interpreting the Indian law. It is, therefore, to the advantage of the students and lawyers aspiring to build a career in this niche field to have a sound base in the EU competition law.”

The course has been envisioned to provide participants with an understanding of the intricate and detailed aspects of the EU legal regime from the evolution of the law to its impact on the functioning of the industries and to examine EU competition law policies and explore new tendencies in the latest European law reforms.

The course covers the History of the EU, EU Institutions, Sources of competition law, Definition and terminology, Economic theories, Applicability of EU law and the Limitations to national law mutation of EU Competition law.

Dr Stephanie began the discussion with the history of the European Union. She talked about the concept of a European Trade area being first established in 1950 after the two world wars which left Europe devastated. The countries came together as the European Coal and Steel Community, it had six founding members: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. In 1957, the Treaty of Rome established a common market, which eliminated customs duties and put in place standard policies, particularly in trade and agriculture. She referred to the Treaty of Lisbon concluded in 2009, and its impact on increasing the powers of the European Parliament. It gave the EU the legal authority to negotiate and sign international treaties. It increased EU powers, border control, immigration, judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and police cooperation. She then moved on to the introductory aspects of EU competition law and the European institutions involved in its governance.

The Certificate course has seen an overwhelming response with over 50 participants from diverse fields.

Profile of the Resource Person:

Dr Stephanie Rohlfing-Dijoux is Professor at the Université Paris Nanterre in the Academy of Versailles. Her research and teaching interests include competition law, commercial law and intellectual property law. She is registered at the Paris and Munich Bar and has participated at various seminars and conferences alongside being the co-director of the tri-national winter and summer universities. She holds innumerable publications to her credit including a book on “Developing Intra-Regional Exchanges through the Abolition of Commercial and Tariff Barriers: Myth or Reality?”. She has written on “Cartel Damages Pursuant to Directive 2014/104/EU and the Need of Implementation for the Directive in National Law”. She was involved in the organization of the international symposium on the reform of German law of obligations and the transposition of Directive 99/44 of 25 May 1999 on certain aspects of the sale and guarantees of consumer goods in France, Germany and Italy.

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