

## **Latin America holds first competition law forum**

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Competition law officials from over 25 countries are attending the OECD's first Latin American Competition Forum this week.

Participants from Latin American jurisdictions will meet with antitrust officials from the US, EU member states and the European Commission to discuss best practices in competition law policy and enforcement.

The competition forum has been organized by the OECD and the Inter-American Development Bank after the bank agreed to help the OECD fund a long term project to bring together officials and government representatives from the region for a series of meetings.

Until now the OECD has only held ad hoc bilateral or regional competition projects with countries in Latin America. The Bank's funding should allow the OECD to run a long-term programme with officials in the region.

Officials are due to debate the impact of foreign-owned companies on national competition policy and look at case studies on the effect of foreign direct investment in the financial services, electricity and telecommunications industries.

Competition officials from Mexico and Canada will also present a peer review of Chile's competition regime.

Said Lennart Goranson, a member of the OECD's competition outreach team organizing the event: "The future is one of the major points of this meeting, and we are inviting participants to express their views and expectations. The hope is of course that this will enhance activities in favour of competition in Latin America, with annual forum meetings and other activities in co-operation between the OECD and the IDB."