

# JCRA Media Release

7 September 2009

## **JCRA to Host Heads of UK and French Competition Authorities in Jersey**

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (“JCRA”) will host Peter Freeman, Chairman on the UK Competition Commission, and Bruno Lasserre, President of the French Autorité de la concurrence, in a seminar to mark the four-year anniversary of the implementation of Jersey’s competition law. The seminar will take place at the Pomme D’or Hotel in St Helier on 9 October.

Jersey’s competition law came into full force on 1 November 2005. Since that time, the JCRA has achieved many results, to the benefit of Jersey’s consumers, including:

- the elimination of fixed or recommended prices among lawyers, dentists, driving instructors, taxi-cabs, building contractors, plumbers and electricians;
- the prevention of mergers and acquisitions that would have substantially lessened competition; and
- most recently, the first decision and fine imposed for an abuse of dominance, taken against the States’ Transport and Technical Services Department concerning the provision of sewerage services.

At the 9 October seminar, the JCRA’s Executive Director Chuck Webb will review these achievements and preview the JCRA’s upcoming aims and objectives. Mr Freeman and Mr Lasserre will then add an international perspective, discussing recent events under UK and French competition law and the importance of effective competition law enforcement. The session will then be opened for audience questions to the speakers.

The Competition Commission is an independent public body that, along with the Office of Fair Trading, is primarily responsible for competition law enforcement in the United Kingdom. Mr Freeman has been the Competition Commission’s Chairman since 2006, having previously served as its Deputy Chairman since 2003. Prior to joining the

Competition Commission, Mr Freeman was the head of the EC and Competition Law Group of the international law firm Simmons & Simmons.

The Autorité de la concurrence was created in 2009, replacing the earlier Conseil de la concurrence, to become the single authority responsible for competition law enforcement in France. Mr Lasserre was appointed as the first President of the Autorité in January 2009, having previously served as the President of the Conseil de la concurrence. He is also the former Director General of the French telecommunications regulatory authority and Deputy Chairman of the French Supreme Administrative Court, the Conseil d'Etat.

Concerning the seminar, Mr Webb states:

*“Given Jersey’s unique history and culture, it is an ideal venue to host senior competition enforcers from both France and the United Kingdom. We are extremely fortunate to have speakers of the quality and credentials of Mr Lasserre and Mr Freeman agreeing to participate in this event.”*

Attendance in the seminar will be by invitation only. Those interested in attending should contact the JCRA at enquiries@jcra.je. All media enquiries about the seminar should be directed to the JCRA’s Executive Director, Chuck Webb, on +44 (0)1534 514990.

#### About the JCRA

The JCRA is an independent authority established by the States of Jersey to enforce Jersey’s competition law and regulate its telecommunication and postal sectors. In each of these areas, the JCRA’s primary mission is to promote consumer welfare through efforts that encourage lower prices and greater choice and innovation in the goods and services available in Jersey. The JCRA is recognized internationally as a leading voice in the application of competition law and policy in small economies.

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