5th March 2009: The Autorité, whose new General Rapporteur and Heads of Unit have been appointed, is now up and running

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Virginie Beaumeunier, whose candidacy for the office of General Rapporteur of the Autorité has received a favourable opinion from the collegial board on Monday 2nd March (see opinion of the Autorité), today took over responsibility for the institution's Investigation Services (see the appointment decision by the Minister of Economy, Industry and Employment, published in the Official Journal).

Virginie Beaumeunier takes up the position of General Rapporteur from today

A graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies (IEP) and a former student at ENA, France's prestigious national school of administration, Virginie Beaumeunier served as deputy head for services and networks - sous-directrice des services et des réseaux - (2006-2007), and then for competition policy - sous-directrice de la politique de la concurrence - (2008-2009), at the Directorate General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF), depending from the Ministry of Economy. She also led a major administrative modernization project for the Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy, between 2002 and 2004.

The General Rapporteur plays a key role within the Autorité de la concurrence. She heads up a unified Investigation Service, which will eventually include about 70 case officers, and whose role is to oversee, in a fully integrated manner, competition inspections and investigations of anticompetitive practices.

She has appointed her key staff

Jean-Marc Belorgey, a former Referendaire at the Court of Justice of the European Communities and Deputy General Rapporteur at the Conseil de la concurrence, Eric Cuziat, former head of section - chef de bureau - at the DGCCRF and previously a case officer at the European Commission's cartels directorate, and Pierre Debrock, a former case officer at the Conseil de la concurrence, will respectively head up one Unit of the Investigation Services. Each of them will lead a team of case officers, under the authority of the General Rapporteur, and will also act as Deputy General Rapporteur. Two other services should be created as the Autorité's activity grows in stature.

Nadine Mouy, a former Deputy General Rapporteur at the Conseil, will become Head of the Mergers Unit and a Deputy General Rapporteur, while Jean Ravoire, a former head of unit at the National Directorate for Inquiries at the DGCCRF, will be Head of the Inspections Unit (dawn raids, unannounced inspections...).

For more information, log onto the new Autorité de la concurrence website at www.autoriedelaconcurrence.fr