

Vinod Dhall

Mr. Vinod Dhall has been the single Member and acting Chairman of the Competition Commission of India since the establishment of the Commission in October 2003. Previously, Mr. Dhall was (Permanent) Secretary to the Government of India.

Mr. Dhall has set up the Competition Commission of India from its inception and has laid the foundation of a professional competition authority incorporating global best practices. Under his direct supervision, the Commission has undertaken: preparation of draft Regulations, Guidelines, Merger Notification forms and procedures, and inquiry and investigation manuals; Competition Advocacy, Awareness and Training activities; preparation of a National Competition Policy; preparation of organizational structure and staffing pattern of Commission and undertaking of recruitment & training; establishment of in-house training programme in Competition Law for staff and organizing of training programmes for stakeholders; setting up of a Competition Forum; undertaking of market studies/research projects; establishment of library and website; and technical cooperation projects of World Bank, USAID, FIAS-DFID for capacity building of Commission.

Mr. Dhall has recently brought out a book “Competition Law Today” published by Oxford University Press India, which has met with critical praise from experts from within and outside India. It has been welcomed as a timely resource and invaluable tool for greater understanding of competition law, especially in newer jurisdictions. It was launched in India by the Finance Minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram and the Minister of Corporate Affairs, Mr. Prem Chand Gupta, and in Geneva at UN headquarters by Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD. It is being used as teaching material/reference book for competition law at reputed academic institutions, and is being considered for translation into Chinese.

Mr. Dhall was Chairman of the Planning Commission’s Working Group on Competition Policy; he was Member of ICN’s Sub-Group on Relationship between Competition Authorities and Sector Regulators, and the Sub-Group on Cartels. He was Chair of various Technical Sessions at OECD Global Competition Forum and UNCTAD Conferences.

As an expert/Member of the Competition Commission, Mr. Dhall has lectured extensively in India at forums like judicial/legal institutes, chambers and associations of industry, academic institutions (especially law schools and management schools), professional institutes (e.g. of chartered accountants, cost accountants and company secretaries), government ministries and regulators. In all he has given around 100

lectures/talks/presentations on Competition Law and Policy and related issues at a wide variety of reputed forums.

He has been invited to speak on competition law and policy/economic laws at the National Judicial Academy of India at in-service training/orientation programmes for hon'ble Justices of the High Courts and at the retreat of hon'ble Justices of the Supreme Court of India.

He has been invited to be Honorary Visiting Professor at law/ management institutes.

Mr. Dhall's expertise in Competition Law and Policy is backed by rich, wider experience in governance in the areas of economic administration and reforms. During his tenure in the Indian Administrative Service, he held several key positions at very senior levels in the Central and State Governments. He specialized in the areas of industrial development, foreign investment, financial sector management, economic reforms and regulation, corporate governance and competition law and policy.

His term as (Permanent) Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs saw important initiatives in new areas, such as undertaking the E-governance project of the Ministry (called MCA 21), Serious Fraud Investigation Office, Corporate Governance, new Insolvency Law and the Competition Act.

Mr. Dhall has worked as Adviser to the United Nations organizations for a number of years. He has been honoured with several public awards, and also several academic awards during his student years such as the Chancellor's Gold Medal for Best Student.

He writes and lectures frequently at academic and other forums on issues of Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility and has been Member or Chair of various juries/committees for selection of reputed awards in areas such as corporate governance, corporate social responsibility and innovativeness.