



ICN Steering Group Meeting Wednesday, 29 April 2020, 2pm CEST

Attendees

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense
Competition Bureau Canada
Colombian Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio
European Commission DG Competition
French Autorité de la concurrence
German Bundeskartellamt
Hungarian Gazdasági Versenyhivatal
Italian Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato
Japan Fair Trade Commission
Korean Fair Trade Commission
Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission
Portuguese Competition Authority
Federal Antimonopoly Service of the Russian Federation
Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore
Competition Commission of South Africa
Turkish Competition Authority
United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority
United States Department of Justice
United States Federal Trade Commission

Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Chair welcomed the Steering Group (SG) members. The SG approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the SG meeting on 25 March 2020.

Item 2: COVID-19

The SG discussed running ICN projects in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The first project is the SG's statement addressing key considerations related to competition law enforcement during and after the COVID-19 pandemic published on 8 April 2020.

A second project is a chart which lists the Steering Group members' COVID-19 related policies circulated by the ICN Secretariat to ICN members on 23 April 2020 inviting more agencies to provide input. At this stage the document is for agencies only. The SG will review the project at a later stage and decide whether the document can be published on the ICN website.

The third COVID-19 related ICN project is a joint ICN-OECD webinar which will take place on 5 May 2020.

The Chair encouraged the Working Group Co-chairs to revisit their draft work plans in the light of the crisis.

Item 3: Annual Conference

The joint conference hosts informed the SG that the conference venue is reserved for September. However, the host agencies will continue to monitor the situation closely and consider the contingency that in-person meetings will not be possible in September.

Item 4: ICN Steering Group Project on Competition, Consumer Protection and Privacy

The project leaders outlined the work plan for the project and provided an update on ongoing work and further information regarding proposed webinars.

Task 1 of the project comprises identification of the main issues involved, with the assistance of volunteer agencies. Currently project members are answering a short call for information to collect existing work in terms of cases, market studies and legislation at the intersection of competition, consumer protection and privacy. Furthermore, volunteers are collecting economic/legal literature. As a next step the project team will start drafting with the help of volunteers the descriptive and non-conclusive list of main issues that derives from the background research. The presentation of an issues identification paper is planned for July. The project team is in contact with the OECD which has shared a draft background paper on consumer data rights.

Task 2 will involve a request for input from all ICN members, in the form of real-world cases and experiences relevant to the project. An analysis of members' input will be provided in October 2020.

Task 3, webinars, will be used to provoke discussion and debate on the issues, and will involve the perspectives of experts and NGAs. The webinars will be held in May/June and again September 2020, and possibly another one in December 2020.

Item 5: ICN/OECD

The ICN/OECD Liaison updated the SG on the joint webinar on COVID-19 on 5 May 2020. The purpose of the webinar is to provide a forum for competition authorities to discuss their experiences in dealing with the key practical enforcement issues they are currently facing in the context of COVID-19.

The ICN/OECD Liaison updated the SG on the joint ICN/OECD project on international cooperation. The project team has analysed the responses to the joint ICN/OECD survey and launched the drafting process. The project team is considering a joint OECD/ICN webinar in late June / early July in order to present and discuss the draft report simultaneously within the OECD and ICN.

The ICN/OECD Liaison informed the SG that the OECD meetings in June will take place virtually. The OECD adjusted the agendas, postponed sessions and added a session on "Competition Policy in the Time of COVID-19" on 15 June.

Item 6: ICN/UNCTAD

The ICN/UNCTAD Liaison reported on an UNCTAD webinar on competition and consumer protection in times of COVID-19 which took place on 29 April 2020.

The ICN/UNCTAD Liaison informed the SG that the Eighth United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 19 - 23 October 2020.

Item 7: Other Business

The ICN Secretariat informed the SG that it is updating ICN mailing lists.

Item 8: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meetings will be held on 13 May 2020.