



ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, 22 January 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 4 December 2019.

Item 2: Working Group Leadership

The Chair briefly presented an overview of the current working group leadership which will form the basis for the rotation process for the 2020-2023 term and was circulated to SG members before the meeting. The Chair reminded SG members that according to the ICN Operational Framework each substantive working group is chaired by three ICN member agencies that serve staggered three-year terms. The ICN Secretariat had started the rotation process by circulating a call for expressions of interest on 31 December 2019.

Item 3: Steering Group Project on Competition, Consumer & Privacy

The Steering Group continued the discussion of a potential Steering Group project on issues at the intersection of competition, consumer protection and data privacy, based on a second scoping note, with a stronger focus on the role of data in competition assessment. It was reflected how the great interest to look at the intersection of the three areas of law could be framed in a way to make clear that the project will focus on the perspectives of ICN members as competition agencies and not address the institutional design of competition agencies. The project plan should also take into account the recent decision of the OECD Competition Committee to hold a roundtable on consumer data rights and impact of competition in June 2020.

The SG decided to invite interested SG members that had not been involved in the drafting of the previous scoping papers to combine them with the aim of keeping the best parts of both while solving the concerns raised.

Item 4: Annual Conference

The joint host agencies reported on the planning of the 2020 Annual Conference which will take place in Los Angeles from 12 to 14 May 2020. The conference website is live and registration is open for both members and NGAs.

Item 5: Workshop

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) which will host the Merger Workshop in Melbourne on 27–28 February 2020 provided an update on the planning and reminded SG members that registrations will close on 24 January 2020. The ACCC informed the SG that plenary speaker selection will ensure greatest diversity of perspectives and regions as possible. The host agency anticipates approximately 200 attendees. Representatives from competition authorities and NGAs and from approximate 35 jurisdictions have already registered.

The Agency Effectiveness Working Group Co-Chairs presented plans for the third Chief/Senior Economists Workshop (Econ Workshop) hosted by the Norwegian Competition Authority in Bergen in April 2020. It will work closely with the Bergen Centre for Competition Law and Economics, who will hold their annual Competition Policy Conference in the same location immediately following the Econ Workshop. As with past years, leading economic thinkers/academics will participate alongside chief and senior economists from agencies to share best practices, discuss emerging topics, and share practical examples of their work. A limited number of NGAs will be invited to attend certain sessions and participate in the discussions.

Item 6: ICN CAP

The CAP Co-chairs informed SG members that the CAP website is online. It is designed as a subpage of the ICN website and already includes several templates provided by CAP participants.

Item 7: ICN-OECD Liaison

The ICN/OECD Liaison presented an update on the joint ICN/OECD project on international cooperation. Following the December SG update, work is well underway according to the work plan approved at the December SG meeting. The ACCC secondee is in Paris working on the next steps of the project. The project team so far has received 51 responses and will follow up with agencies on their specific experiences to strengthen the qualitative data. The next steps will include analysis of responses and launching the drafting process.

Item 8. Other Business

The Chair informed the SG members that Paul Luard and Dave Anderson are working on a book called "ICN at 20" and that many ICN members including SG members as well as NGAs are contribution to this book which is, however, not an ICN work product. The first book, ICN at 10, was presented at the 2011 ICN Annual Conference where each conference participant received the book as part of the welcome package. For "ICN at 20" the exact procedure is still under consideration and SG members will be kept up-to-date regarding the progress of this work product.

The ICN Secretariat informed the SG members that it will circulate the recommendations for funding for the merger workshop, and the ICN Specified Purpose Account for SG review shortly.

Item 9: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meetings will be held on 19 February, 25 March and 29 April 2020.