



ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, 26 October 2022, 2:00pm CET

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
Kenya Competition Authority
Korean Fair Trade Commission
Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission
Portuguese Competition Authority
Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore
Competition Commission of South Africa
Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission
United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority
United States Department of Justice
United States Federal Trade Commission

Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The SG approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the SG meeting on 7 September 2022.

The Chair welcomed Doris Tshepe, Competition Commissioner of the Competition Commission South Africa, to her first SG meeting.

Item 2: Working Groups

The Advocacy Working Group, co-chaired by the Philippine Competition Commission, the Competition Authority of Kenya and the Superintendency of Industry and Commerce, Colombia, provided an update on running projects:

- ICN Advocacy Toolkit – Part 2, Effective communication of competition advocacy messages.
Status: Over the summer, the Working Group invited members to share their expectations for this part of the Toolkit and any initiatives for use as case examples.
- Market Studies Information Store, a web-based catalogue of ICN members’ market studies, categorized by jurisdiction and sector.
Status: The AWG is in the process of updating the Information Store. Further, in order to enhance the Information Store a new section dedicated to collaborative studies has been added.
- Optimizing Advocacy to Enhance International Cooperation towards more Effective Enforcement. Multi-year project to provide practical tools and guidance to Competition Agencies in using advocacy to further enhance cooperation efforts towards more effective cross-border enforcement.
Status: Lessons and insights from competition agencies in dealing with cross-border competition issues were gathered through a webinar and sharing session among member agencies.
- Advocacy Workshop, 22-23, February 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Item 3: Workshop

The Cartel Working Group provided an update on the planning of the Cartel workshop in Auckland, New Zealand, 5-8 December 2022.

The ICN Secretariat provided brief updates on the following workshops:

- UC Workshop in Tokyo, Japan, March 2023
- Chief and Senior Economists Workshop in Bergen, Norway, 30-31 May 2023
- Advocacy Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, 22-23 February 2024

Item 4: ITOD

The ITOD project group updated the SG on running projects:

- Market Studies and Market Investigation. Produced by the UK CMA, with contributions from DG Comp, COFECE, and CADE
- Writing an Effective Case Recommendation
- Public Affairs
- Update of Market Definition/Market Power
- A Framework for Single Firm Conduct
- Bid Rigging and Public Procurement
- Access to Information

The module on market studies and market investigation will be posted publicly following the SG meeting.

Item 5: Vice Chair for Growth and Recovery

On 25 October, the ICN SG issued a Statement on The Role of Competition & Competition Policy in Times of Economic Crisis.

The Chair and the SG members thanked the Vice Chair for Growth and Recovery, Margarida Matos Rosa, President of the Portuguese AdC, and all involved in this important project.

The Statement is available on the ICN website also in Spanish and Portuguese. The SG thanked the CNMC, SIC Colombia and AdC Portugal for the translations.

The ICN Vice-Chair reported back from the successful Competition, Growth and Recovery Workshop which took place on 25 October 2022. More than 500 participants registered for the virtual event which featured a keynote and two panels with speakers from outside the antitrust community:

Panel 1 – Competition and economic policy-making – building a resilient and inclusive recovery

Panel 2 – Competition in times of inflation.

Item 6: Competition in times of crisis

The SG members continued the discussion on competition in times of crisis based on presentations by Doris Tshepe, Competition Commissioner of the Competition Commission South Africa and Francis Kariuki, Director-General of the Competition Authority of Kenya.

Item 7: Membership

The Membership working group Co-chairs presented two applications for ICN membership for SG approval:

1. National Competition Commission of the Government of Paraguay
2. ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority (ERCA) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

The SG members approved both applications.

The ICN Secretariat presented the “ICN Annual check-in” which is based on the 3D project and aims at improving the information flow as well as keeping ICN member contact lists up-to date.

Item 8: Other Business

No other business was reported.

Item 9: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meetings will take place on 30 November 2022 (Paris) and 18 January 2023.