



**ICN Steering Group Meeting  
Friday, 6 May 2022, 13:45pm 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  
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.

**Item 2: ICN Annual Conferences 2022 and 2023**

The SG members congratulated the Bundeskartellamt on hosting a successful hybrid ICN Annual Conference.

The Chair invited SG members to discuss the Annual Conference.

***New formats***

SG members noted that the variety of formats, particularly the short interviews, received very positive feedback. The same is true for the variety of speakers which included the judiciary

and parliament. Future conference hosts should feel encouraged to continue exploring new formats and to introduce an outside perspective, e.g. by inviting a CEO as a speaker.

#### *Plenary sessions*

It was noted that plenary sessions should aim at lively debates among the speakers. Speakers should include NGAs. Co-chairs should ensure gender and geographic diversity when inviting speakers, they should also ensure NGA diversity.

#### *Heads of agency session*

The heads of agency session was considered very useful. For future conferences, an additional heads of agency session or a longer session should be considered.

#### *Hybrid Format*

The hybrid format was considered useful as it allows ICN member agencies that are not able to join the conference in person to follow the plenary sessions virtually. Members agencies should be encouraged to circulate links to virtual or hybrid events in their agencies. At the same time, SG members support the approach of not streaming BOS to facilitate free and lively debates.

#### *Optimal size of conferences*

SG members discussed pros and cons of smaller and bigger annual conferences. SG members noted that the slightly smaller 2022 annual conference worked very well and facilitated interaction between participants. On the other hand, bigger conferences can be attended by more delegates and NGAs.

#### *NGA engagement*

The ICN/NGA liaison will share plans for future projects to foster NGA engagement at a future SG meeting.

### Item 3: Future Topics

SG members noted that the ICN as the network of competition agencies should deal with the current developments with regard to inflation and the role of competition and competition agencies. In this context it should be considered bringing in outside perspectives.

SG members pointed out that the current draft working group work plans do not include projects on sustainability and competition and asked the working groups to revisit the work plans. SG members considered working group projects preferable to an additional SG project.

### Item 3: ICN/OECD Liaison

The ICN/OECD Liaison provided a preview of the OECD's June competition week taking place from 20 to 24 June and updated the SG members on the Competition Enforcement Co-operation Template:

The week will start on 20 June with the roundtable of Working Party no. 2 (WP2) on “Competition and Regulation in the Provision of Local Transportation Services”. There will also be presentations on environmental regulations and policies supporting electric vehicles. Furthermore, the WP2 will continue its important work on the development of a Competitive Neutrality Toolkit.

Working Party No. 3 (WP3) will meet on 21 June, hosting a roundtable on “Interim Measures in Antitrust Investigations”. In addition, the agenda will include a session entitled “Hearing on Thinking out of the Competition Box: Enforcement Co-operation in Other Policy Areas”. Furthermore, the WP3 will continue working on the proposed revision of the “Recommendation on Fighting Bid Rigging in Public Procurement”.

As for the Competition Committee, sessions will be held on 22-24 June, focusing on (i) “Purchasing Power and Buyers Cartels”, (ii) “The Evolving Concept of Market Power in the Digital Economy” (iii) “Disentangling Consummated Mergers – Experiences and Challenges” and (iv) “Behavioral Insights in Competition Enforcement”.

Pursuant to the 2021 OECD/ICN Report on International Co-operation on Competition Enforcement – and as a subsequent work output –, the OECD Competition Committee has recently approved the Competition Enforcement Co-operation Template (CEC Template) in April 2022. The CEC Template is not intended to replace ICN resources and work products designed to provide transparency over enforcement practices and procedures, but rather to complement them and to cross-promote resources that improve enforcement co-operation. On 28 April, the OECD launched the online survey. On the same day, the ICN Secretariat invited all ICN member agencies to fill in the CEC Template in the online survey.

#### Item 4: Other Business

No topics were raised under this agenda item at this meeting.

#### Item 5: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meeting will take place in Paris on 22 June 2022.