

Andreas Mundt
Chairman ICN Steering Group
President Bundeskartellamt

6 June 2024

Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 12 June 2024

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to begin the 2024/2025 ICN year with an in-person meeting in Paris. This new ICN year will be marked by transformation and renewal with a focus on inclusiveness, transparency and participation across our network. To ensure everyone can participate, we are offering all Steering Group members who will not be travelling to Paris for the OECD week the opportunity to join the upcoming meeting virtually via Zoom.

Reflecting on our recent annual conference in Brazil, I once again extend my heartfelt thanks to Alexandre Cordeiro and his dedicated team at CADE for hosting such a successful event.

I am also very pleased to welcome [Andrea Marván as our new ICN Vice-Chair](#).

ICN Secretariat

It is with regret that we acknowledge the Competition Bureau's (CB) decision to step down as the ICN Secretariat after a transitional period. We are immensely grateful for their unwavering dedication and hard work over the past two decades. Our upcoming meeting will focus on discussing the way forward and look at the needs of our network, which has grown considerably since it was founded. As part of the overall transformation process we will address the question of how administrative tasks can be allocated and managed in the future. We are grateful that the CB will continue to support us during this transition period. The invaluable experience accumulated over two decades cannot be easily replaced.

Operational Framework

The Operational Framework Working Group (OFWG) has diligently worked on revisions to the Operational Framework throughout the past ICN year. During the annual conference, a special Steering Group (SG) meeting addressed issues related to SG decision-making and co-chair rotation. Based on these discussions, the OFWG has prepared a draft proposal which was already shared for our review and further discussion.

ICN Annual Conference

As we move forward, preparations for the next annual conference are already underway. The UK CMA has already started preparing for the conference in Edinburgh, scheduled to take place from 7-9 May 2025, and will provide us with an initial update.

The ICN Secretariat will inform the SG members about the expressions of interest received to host the 2026 and 2027 annual conferences and SG members will have the opportunity to discuss these applications.

Horizontal Coordinator Report

The ACCC in its capacity as Horizontal Coordinator will present the 2024/25 working group work plans and provide their assessment.

Sustainability Workshop

The French Autorité will update us on the first ICN sustainability workshop titled “The Role of Competition in Supporting Sustainable Development Goals,” scheduled for 2-3 July 2024.

OECD Liaison

Finally, the JFTC in its capacity as OECD Liaison will inform the Steering Group members about OECD projects.

I look forward to seeing you next week in Paris.

Best wishes,

Andreas Mundt