ICN Steering Group Meeting

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

8:15 am (Paris)

<u>**Attendees**</u>

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense

Competition Bureau Canada

European Commission DG Competition

French Autorité de la concurrence

German Bundeskartellamt

Japan Fair Trade Commission

Italian Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato

Korean Fair Trade Commission

Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission

Netherlands Authority for Consumers & Markets

Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service

South African Competition Commission

Spanish Competition Authority

Swedish Competition Authority

Turkish Competition Authority

United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority

United States Department of Justice

United States Federal Trade Commission

<u>Item 1: Approval of Agenda</u>

The Steering Group (SG) approved the draft agenda.

<u>Item 2: ICN Chair Feedback Session</u>

The Chair summarised the town hall meeting which gave new impetus for the future work

of the ICN as a mature international organisation. Ideas which the ICN intends to follow up

include regular strategic and long term planning in the SG, work on sectors, inclusiveness and funding for ICN conferences, implementation and marketing, and a small-scale follow-up survey on the 2nd decade project. The proposal to hold a breakout session (BOS) at the Annual Conference in Sydney chaired by young agencies as a platform for young agencies will be further discussed among the Annual Conference and Planning Committee members.

Item 3: ICN/OECD Coordinator Report

Mr. John Pecman in his capacity as the ICN/OECD Coordinator (Coordinator) reported on a trilateral meeting held on Tuesday, 16 December, with OECD representatives, namely, Dr. Frédéric Jenny and Mr. John Davies, and the ICN Chair relating to the coordination between the OECD and ICN and the inclusiveness of the OECD. The Coordinator indicated that the ICN considers the OECD to be a valuable partner and that the mutual exchange and understanding should be further improved. Possible proactive steps include regular calls and meetings between the OECD and the ICN at both the working and leadership levels, together with the Coordinator; a work product catalogue developed by the OECD covering the last five years and an addition to the ICN work plan template covering relevant OECD work products.

Mr. Vladimir Kachalin pointed out that coordination between the OECD and ICN might be helpful with regard to the Chapter on Cooperation with Procurement Agencies of the Cartel Working Group's Anti-Cartel Enforcement Manual and OECD work on bid rigging. However, as the ICN and the OECD have a different focus when dealing with bid rigging, overlaps are not considered an issue.

The SG emphasized that the ICN is a diverse organisation and not all its members are in a position to follow all OECD activities. As the ICN is a decentralised organisation, there might be a need to further improve coordination with the OECD not only on SG level, but also on Working Group level. This topic will be covered in the next Working Group Chairs call.

The ICN/OECD Coordinator reported on OECD activities. The next OECD meeting will take place from June 15 until June 19, 2015. The OECD meeting in October will include a Global Forum.

Item 4: 2015 Annual Conference

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) provided an update on the preparation of the 2015 Annual Conference from 28 April to 1 May, which is well on track. The conference venue will be the Sheraton on the Park in Sydney. The social program will include a welcome reception at Sydney Opera House, a dinner at the Museum of Contemporary Art and a Sydney harbour cruise. The webpage www.icn2015.com.au is already online. A pre-event organized by the World Bank and the International Bar Association will take place before the Annual Conference.

The ACCC reconsidered the approach taken with regard to sponsorship. The Operational Framework Working Group will develop guidelines on the sponsorship of ICN events which will not be limited to the Annual Conferences. The ACCC offered its assistance.

The SG discussed whether NGAs should be obliged to pay a fee when attending ICN conferences. The Operational Framework Working Group will continue this discussion.

The ACCC gave an update on the special project dedicated to online vertical restraints.

The SG discussed media access at Annual Conferences. While media coverage is considered important, quotes should be limited to plenary discussions and should exclude breakout sessions. This topic will be discussed further at the next SG meeting.

Item 5: Workshops

The Autorité de la concurrence reported on the workshop of the Advocacy Working Group in Balaclava, Mauritius in November with 55 participants from 23 countries and 6 NGAs.

The ACCC reported on the ICN Cartel Workshop in Taipei, Taiwan in October with 150

participants including 20 participants from Taiwan.

The European Commission reported on the Merger Workshop held in New Delhi, India in December with 75 participants and announced the Merger Workshop 2015 which will take in Brussels, Belgium.

With regard to future workshops the SG discussed the timing and the difficulty of finding reasonable dates for all workshops which should not be held too close to each other.

Item 6: Hot Topic Discussion
The next discussion of hot topics will take place after the Annual Conference in Sydney.

Item 7: Other Business
The Chair invited the Working Groups to start discussions on chair rotation. He mentioned the possibility of reducing the number of Co-Chairs in the Cartel Working Group.

Item 8: Future Meetings of the Steering Group
The next SG meeting will be held on January 14, 2015.