**ICN Steering Group Meeting**
**Wednesday, December 11, 2013**
**2:00pm (Bonn)**
**Attendees**

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Barbados Fair Trading 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 Competition Authority
Polish Office of Competition and Consumer Protection
Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service
South African Competition Commission
Turkish Competition Authority
United Kingdom Office of Fair Trading
United States Department of Justice
United States Federal Trade Commission

Competition Council of Morocco
Spanish Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia

Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Steering Group (SG) approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the October 30 meeting, subject to any comments submitted to the Secretariat by December 13, 2013.

Item 2: Vertical Restraints

SG members discussed the idea of addressing vertical restraints in the ICN, possibly with a focus on the internet economy and practical issues regarding the application and interpretation of competition laws to e-commerce.

The Chair invited comments on how broadly the topic should be dealt with and observed that the topic did not fit thematically in any of the existing WGs and that work plans were already quite ambitious. Therefore he suggested that the topic might be dealt with either as a SG project, as a potential special project for an Annual Conference or within a newly founded WG. The Chair, however, did not favour this last option.

SG members expressed broad support for taking this topic further as a SG project, suggesting

the scope of the topic be determined as a first step. There was agreement to approach the topic broadly and to see how to narrow it down during the process. The Chair agreed to work on further developing the discussion issues and that his office would come back to the SG with a proposal.

Item 3: Steering Group Projects

The EC Directorate General of Competition and the US Federal Trade Commission provided an update on Agency Effectiveness Working Group's investigative process project. The project team has recently circulated a survey focussing on the topic of agency confidentiality practices – the protection of confidential information obtained during investigations. The Working Group will hold a roundtable discussion on competition agencies' investigative processes on March 25, 2014, in Washington, DC.

The Polish Office of Competition and Consumer Protection and the Advocacy Working Group Co-chairs provided an update on the Working with Courts and Judges Project. This topic was dealt with as Special Project at the 2013 annual conference in Warsaw, and will be further discussed at the 2013 Advocacy Workshop to be held next week in Rome, Italy.

An update on the ICN-OECD joint project on enforcement cooperation will be provided at the next SG meeting in January 2014.

Item 4: 2014 Annual Conference

The Competition Council of Morocco (CCM) informed SG members that the Annual Conference will be held at the Palmeraie Golf Palace (PGP). The Plenary Hall is large enough to accommodate the 500 anticipated delegates classroom style (with tables and chairs), and the six breakout session rooms can accommodate between 70-100 persons each. Special rates have been negotiated at the PGP and with other nearby hotels in Marrakesh. A shuttle bus will operate in the morning and the evening from one of these hotels to the PGP.

For all plenary sessions English/French simultaneous translation will be provided. The Annual Conference Planning Committee has begun discussions concerning the conference programme. Most likely, each WG will have approximately 2 hours to be divided between their respective plenary and breakout sessions. It is expected that the conference website will in early January.

The special project for the 2014 Annual Conference addresses "Competition Enforcement and State Owned Enterprises". The CCM has prepared a questionnaire, which was circulated early in December to all ICN members. The deadline for ICN members to complete the questionnaire will be mid January.

Four side events have been planned: a welcome reception, a traditional tea ceremony, a gala dinner and a sightseeing tour.

Item 5: 2013 Cartel Workshop

The South African Competition Commission reported on the successful 2013 Cartel Workshop,

which was held in Cape Town on October 15-18, 2013. 185 participants from 53 jurisdictions attended the Workshop. These included 25 participants (excluding the 50 participants from South Africa) from 12 African jurisdictions.

Item 6: Membership Working Group

The Membership Working Group received letters of interest from the following three jurisdictions, namely, Algeria, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia to join the ICN. The SG approved all three applications, as they met the criteria to become an ICN member, and the Chair welcomed the new members to the ICN.

Item 7. Other business:

The Chair informed SG members that an update to the "ICN Roadmap for 2013-2015" was circulated to SG members in advance of the SG call. This revised version reflects the discussion at the October 30, 2013 SG meeting.

The Chair also drew everyone's attention to the WG Chair rotation, which will take place this year. He is aware that WG Chairs are discussing rotation bilaterally and reminded them that while the SG will take into consideration the recommendation of the current working group leadership, the selection of Working Group chairs is made at the SG level taking into account the criteria set out in the Operational Framework.

Item 8. Future Meetings of the Steering Group

The next Steering Group meetings will be held:
- Wednesday, January 15, 2014
- Wednesday, February 26, 2014 (on the margins of the OECD)
- Wednesday, April 2, 2014
- Wednesday, April 9, 2014