

**ICN Steering Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 26, 2014**  
**2:00pm (Paris)**

**Attendees**

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 Competition Authority  
United Kingdom Office of Fair Trading  
United States Department of Justice  
United States Federal Trade Commission

Moroccan Competition Council  
Spanish Competition Authority  
Swedish Competition Authority  
Portuguese Competition Authority

**Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

The Steering Group (SG) approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the January 15 meeting, subject to any comments submitted to the Secretariat by March 7, 2014.

**Item 2: Welcome new members**

The Chair welcomed Lord Currie and Mr. José María Marín Quemada as new Members of the ICN. Lord Currie is the new Chair of the CMA who has taken over the duties of the OFT and CC. Mr. José María Marín Quemada is Chairman of the Spanish National Authority for Markets and Competition, formerly the Spanish National Competition Authority.

**Item 3: Workshops**

The Italian Competition Authority gave a brief debrief on the AWG Workshop that was held in Rome in December 2013. The workshop once more showed that participants highly appreciated the opportunity to learn from each other and exchange views. Topics of great interest were agency internal strategic planning and the setting of priorities. Participants also noted a need for training to use the Advocacy Toolkit and how to conduct and present market studies.

#### Item 4: 2014 Annual Conference

The Moroccan Competition Council (MCC) gave an update on the 2014 Annual Conference which will be held in Marrakech in April 2014. The Conference Website was launched and the registration was opened in mid January. 200 participants had already registered. The SG was reminded that the deadline for registration is March 20.

Negotiations about a welcome desk at the airport are currently ongoing; however, participants have to pay for the transportation to town themselves.

The MCC also informed the SG about the planned side events.

Authorities wishing to hold bilateral meetings at the conference venue are requested to contact the MCC. They can help with reserving such rooms at the cost of the requesting authority. A sitting area is located close to the plenary hall, which can also be used for informal bilateral meetings.

With regards to the pre-event the MCC informed the SG that the Pre-Event sponsored by the World Bank will be held at the same location as the Annual Conference. The topic of this event will be *“Competitive domestic markets: the cornerstone to boost trade and competitiveness”*

#### Item 5: ICN WG Work Plans

The SG then turned to discussing the work plans for the upcoming year. The ACCC gave a brief summary of the report which it had compiled. Appendix B provided an overview of all work products. Even though the Horizontal Coordinator does not see any conflicts due to overlaps, it cautioned of possible conflicts due to the fact that each working group is planning to hold a workshop. It offered to assist in the coordination of the timings of the workshops.

The Horizontal Coordinator also reviewed the overall workload and the outcomes. Since 2009, the number of work products has increased steadily. Therefore it was good to see that now the number of work products seems to have stabilized.

The Chair thanked the Horizontal Coordinator for this report and asked each working group to comment on their work plan and to mention the priorities of the working group. Before the discussion started the Chair pointed out that this discussion only made sense if the work plans did not change substantially after the annual conference. Also he hoped that all Working Group members and the incoming Working Group Chairs had had enough opportunity to become involved in the shaping of the work plan.

The Chair also cautioned that some work products may not be finalised this year and therefore would have to be continued in the next year. This could however not happen without postponing a planned work product. With regard to the counting of work products the Chair conceded that this was naturally very difficult. The overall workload should however remain manageable, no matter how it is counted in detail. Even member agencies that have a large workforce struggle with keeping up with all work products, especially if they are as resource intensive as Recommended Practices. For the sake of inclusiveness the Working

Groups should try to aim to prioritize and limit the overall burden for all members.

Then followed an in-depth discussion of the working group's priorities and work plans, where uncertainties were clarified and possible overlaps with the work of the OECD were pointed out. The Chair thanked all SG members for the open discussion. Working Group Chairs were reminded that this did not mean that the work plans were approved. Quite contrary, all Chairs were requested to streamline their work plans and to adapt them following the very helpful discussion.

#### Item 6: Other Business

The Chair informed the SG that the Chair Rotation overview will be made available by email very soon.

The Chair further informed the SG that three expressions of interest had been received to host the 2016 Annual Conference. He thanked all candidates for their interest. SG members will receive two weeks to vote in a written process. The outcome of the vote will be announced at the next SG meeting in April.

At the end of the meeting the Chair and the SG thanked Phil Collins and Malgorzata Krasnodebska-Tomkiel for their work in the SG and the ICN.

#### Item 7. Future Meetings of the Steering Group

The next Steering Group meetings will be held:

- Wednesday, April 2, 2014
- Wednesday, April 9, 2014