# ICN Steering Group Meeting Tuesday, February 27, 2013 OECD Conference Center 8:15 – 9:30 am (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 Korea Fair Trade Commission Mexico Federal Competition Commission Moroccan Conseil de la Concurrence **Netherlands Competition Authority** Norwegian Competition Authority OECD Polish Office of Competition and Consumer Protection Portuguese Competition Authority Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service South African Competition Commission **Swedish Competition Authority** Turkish Competition Authority United Kingdom Office of Fair Trading United States Department of Justice United States Federal Trade Commission

# Item 1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Steering Group approved the proposed agenda and minutes of the February 12 meeting, subject to any comments submitted to the Secretariat by Tuesday, March 5.

## Item 2. ICN-OECD Joint Project on Enforcement Cooperation

The Chair welcomed OECD's John Davies, Antonio Capobianco, and Alessandra Tonazzi, and thanked them for their efforts in compiling the enforcement cooperation survey results and preparing a summary and analysis.

The UK OFT and the US DOJ led a discussion on the ICN-OECD joint project on enforcement cooperation, reiterating the need to coordinate with the OECD in determining future work to develop a cohesive agenda that takes advantage of the institutional strengths of each organization.

The ICN's broad membership and flexible approach to work product was cited an advantage that lends itself to trying different ways of working and approaches to enforcement cooperation. Steering Group members identified areas of possible future ICN work, including preparing templates, model waivers of confidentiality, model agreements, and the development of recommended practices. Members also noted ICN's strength as a discussion forum, advocating for workshops and webinars. The close involvement of NGAs is another advantage of the ICN, and it was suggested that NGAs should be involved in the cooperation work.

The Chair suggested that one area that can benefit from work in both organizations is recommendations or guidance. In the areas where the two organizations have done similar prescriptive work, members have indicated that it is very helpful to have both organizations speaking with the same voice.

Steering Group members agreed that light coordination from the Steering Group would be necessary, but that it was important to rely on enforcement working groups to prioritize and carry out the work.

The Steering Group agreed to continue working with the OECD, with the expectation that the Working Groups will finalize work plans to coincide with OECD's June meeting.

### Item 3. Implementation

The Chair and Vice Chair Mundt led a discussion on the use and implementation of ICN work product. Consistent with the key findings of the ICN's Second Decade Initiative, the Chair noted that many discussions over the past ICN year have reflected a desire for the ICN to do more on implementation and make better use and promotion of ICN work product.

Implementation and promotion of ICN work product also were topics of discussion on the February Townhall meeting. Vice Chair Mundt shared his ideas and suggestions made during the Town Hall meeting, including praise for RPs, and support for continuing to develop this type of high profile, visible work product.

The Townhall meeting had raised the importance of engaging staff and spreading knowledge of ICN work product outside international departments and also to NGAs, and this was discussed further at the Steering Group meeting. The idea of benchmarking and peer reviews was offered on the Townhall, but there was a sentiment that it was only possible to do some preliminary work in that area.

Members suggested that ICN seek opportunities to: offer ICN resources to agencies who want to undergo internal or legislative reforms; work with regional networks to disseminate ICN work product; and consider holding workshops that would promote ICN resources. One member suggested having an "ICN day" to promote awareness of ICN work product within agencies, or to have ICN messages on disseminating work product. Members agreed it would be important to review how the experiences of agencies that have successfully embedded ICN work product, and would to collect that experience and share it more widely.

#### Item 4. 2013 Annual Conference

The UOKiK provided an update on the conference planning and reminded SG members that registration closes on March 25. Canada's John Pecman outlined plans for a breakout session targeted at engaging economists, which was developed by the Canadian Competition Bureau and the Mexican Federal Competition Commission.

#### Item 5. 2014 Special Project

Morocco's Conseil de la Concurrence presented a topic proposal on state owned enterprises for the 2014 Special Project, addressing three issues: what are the different kinds of state-owned enterprises, what are the issues specific to them, and how young authorities in particular can deal with them. Steering Group members endorsed the topic, while noting that both the OECD and the ICN had done related work on the topic that could provide helpful background for the project.

## <u>Item 6. Advocacy and Implementation Network</u>

The Steering Group approved the ICN Work Products Catalogue and AISUP Flyer, presented by the JFTC.

#### Item 7. Other Business

Bruno Lasserre and Randy Tritell reported further on the Town Hall meeting, in which 60 members and NGAs participated. Several ideas were discussed on how to foster inclusiveness, how to get NGAs more involved. Practical suggestions were also made, including development of academic hubs, which will be discussed in Warsaw in a special session. The program was recorded and is posted on the ICN website.

The Steering Group approved the ICN member application by Ecuador's Superintendency for Market Power Control. The KFTC agreed to circulate a note on the Eurasian Economic Commission for comment.

The Secretariat presented the process for Steering Group and Chair Elections and updated the Steering Group on the 2015 annual conference applicants. ICN Secretariat will send an e-mail to ICN members inviting those interested in Steering Group membership to express their interest by March 22. Eduardo Perez Motta expressed his interest in continuing his role as chair.

## Item 8. Future Meetings of the Steering Group

The next Steering Group meeting will take place on March 14. The following meetings will be on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 and Wednesday, April 10, 2013.