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1 September 2022

**Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 7 September 2022**

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back after the summer break. We have a full agenda for next week with a clear focus on the Vice Chair's project.

The host of the 2023 ICN Annual Conference, the Spanish CNMC, will start the meeting with an update on conference planning. The conference date is not final yet, but you should block 18-20 October 2023 in your calendars.

We will then turn to the working groups and hear an update provided by the Merger Working Group on current projects, including the project on control of data, market power and potential competition in merger review. The Cartel Working Group will present the new back-to-basics programme and provide information on the workshop, which will take place in Auckland, New Zealand.

Margarida Matos Rosa, ICN Vice Chair for Growth and Recovery, will present plans for an event in October. She will also update the SG members on the SG statement on the role of competition in times of crisis and invite a discussion in order to guide the drafting process. Questions to be addressed include, inter alia, should the document be "timeless" or refer specifically to the current context of economic recovery and the economic/inflation crisis? To what extent should the statement also cover other challenges of long-term relevance, e.g. climate change?

Finally, we will hear from the 3D project. The 3D draft recommendations circulated to the SG in June have been discussed by the working group chairs with a focus on what that group can do to help improve ICN processes. Four areas stand out: 1) communication: an improved online calendar and more regular working group updates for the membership, 2) inclusiveness: a robust annual work plan process with more opportunity for input from members, 3) a high-

level review of all existing ICN work products to identify topic gaps and work in need of updating, and 4) more encouragement for non-chair project leaders across the working groups to create more leadership opportunities and alleviate some of the burdens of co-chairing. The 3D project team will seek approval to push forward. The group also noted the idea of creating a Steering Group “Perspective” or “Advisory Group” of non-SG members. The working group Co-chairs will discuss this suggestion before it will be presented to the SG at a future meeting.

I look forward to speaking with you next week.

Best wishes,

Andreas Mundt