

Andreas Mundt
Chairman ICN Steering Group
President Federal Cartel Office

5 June 2020

Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 10 June 2020

Dear colleagues,

We will meet virtually instead of our traditional in-person meeting in Paris on the margins of the OECD week. Please note that in order to avoid overlaps with the OECD sessions we will start our SG meeting at 2.30 pm (Bonn).

Our first agenda item is the ICN communication strategy. Given that we cannot expect any in-person ICN meetings in the near future, we intend to make use of Twitter to keep the ICN community and the interested public informed, with a focus on new content published on the ICN website.

The U.S agencies have started the planning process for a 2020 virtual annual conference and invited the working group Co-chairs to contribute. We will hear first ideas, particularly regarding possible dates and the format. The Hungarian GVH will present the topic for the 2021 special project which is “Sustainable Development and Competition Law”, and we will start looking at potential candidates to host the 2022 event. So far, the ICN Secretariat has received expressions of interest from the competition authorities of the Sultanate of Oman, the UK and Uzbekistan. We will not take a decision at this stage, but wait until we have gained a bit more clarity with regard to the pandemic.

We will then turn to the 2020/21 work plans. I will ask the working group Co-chairs to briefly present their key projects for this ICN year, and we will hear the Horizontal Coordinator’s report. After approval the work plans will be published on the ICN website and presented at the ICN kick-off call which will take place on 18 June 2020.

As discussed, this year we follow a flexible approach with regard to the presentation and approval of work products. In our meeting we will look at the latest ITOD modules, and we will hear an update from the Unilateral Conduct Working Group and the project on dominance in

digital markets. The Working Group has circulated a first draft and expects to present the final report to the Steering Group in July.

In May we have touched on the idea of a Third Decade Review (3D) and have decided to further develop it. 3D would follow the ICN's 2011 second decade exercise and the 2016 follow-up. Meanwhile the project team has developed a project plan which includes three core areas: content, tools and an Operational Framework review. We will discuss the project plan and decide on possible further steps.

The Agency Effectiveness Working Group will provide an update on running projects in relation to COVID-19, the ICN Secretariat will report on the status of the ICN workshops planned for 2020 and, lastly, we will hear a report from the ICN/OECD Liaison on joint ICN/OECD work on cooperation.

I am looking forward to speaking with you next Wednesday.

With best regards,

Andreas Mundt