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Chairman ICN Steering Group
President Bundeskartellamt

7 June 2023

Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 14 June 2023

Dear colleagues,

I am looking forward to our meeting on 14 June. To my great regret, I will not be able to join you in Paris in person though. I need to be in Berlin to discuss the latest amendment of the German competition law in parliament. We have tried until the very last to reschedule that hearing, but unfortunately it turned out that this was not possible. The Steering Group meeting will therefore exceptionally take place in a hybrid format; the Bundeskartellamt will bear the costs. Those of you who will not be able to be in Paris either can connect via the following link:

<https://meetoe.cd1.zoom.us/j/99271839073?pwd=Rjl1SlJGYjA2amdIYnErQlI0L3ZFUT09>

Meeting ID: 992 7183 9073, Password: L^wELf1D0f

ICN Vice Chair and OECD Liaison

The ICN can have up to two Vice Chairs. Currently, Lina Khan, Chair of the US FTC, acts as Vice Chair for digital economy issues. She replaced Tembinkosi Bonakele. The Vice Chair position of Margarida Matos Rosa, former President of the Portuguese AdC, is vacant. Next week, we will consult and I will nominate a new Vice Chair. I am very happy that Sia Aik Kor, Chief Executive of the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore, is willing to take on this task together with her very experienced team – the same core team that organized the ICN Annual Conference in Singapore and that is very much involved in the ICN Working Groups as well as in ICN administration. I would also like to explore options to introduce more flexibility regarding the number of ICN Vice Chairs, e.g. allowing up to three Vice Chairs. Just to remind you, this was an option that existed in the early days of the ICN.

Given that Margarida Matos Rosa also acted as OECD Liaison, we will address this position as well, and I am in contact with the JFTC about this. Commissioner Reiko Aoki is very experienced and connected both in the ICN and the OECD. We will deal with the UNCTAD Liaison at a future meeting.

ICN Tech Forum

We will hear an update on plans from the ICN Vice Chair for digital economy issues, including a proposed forum for agency technologists and digital experts to work together within the ICN, akin to the ICN's group for agency economists.

Horizontal Coordinator

The ACCC in its capacity as Horizontal Coordinator will present an overview and assessment of the short-form work plans submitted by the Working Groups for the 2023/2024 ICN year. The final report will be approved after the Annual Conference in Barcelona, which will allow the Co-Chairs to take into account the input from the conference as well as ideas from the new Working Group leadership.

I will very briefly inform you about two additional suggestions for ICN projects brought up by NGAs: one concerning food and agriculture markets and especially how they affect developing countries, and a second one dealing with the interface between competition reviews and foreign investment reviews. We will not take a decision on any of those ideas yet, but it will be useful to hear your initial thoughts on the topics and on potential procedures, e.g. feeding them into the well-established process of Working Group work plan development or discussing them on SG level.

Working Group Rotation and Steering Group membership

On 5 May, the ICN Secretariat invited the ICN members to express their interest in leadership opportunities within the network. The Secretariat and the Chair's Office are in the process of reviewing the expressions of interest for Working Group leadership as well as for SG membership and will provide a first overview of possible candidates. It turned out that many agencies are interested in leadership positions, which is a good thing; on the other hand, the number of positions is limited so that some flexibility might be required.

ICN Annual Conference

We will then turn to the ICN Annual Conference taking place in Barcelona from 18 to 20 October 2023. The website is live, and the registration process is running. At our meeting, the Spanish CNMC will present an update on its conference planning which will also cover possible pre-events, and we will discuss the latest week-at-a-glance document as well as the speaker line-up. While both are still work in progress and might not be ready for final approval yet, your

feedback will be useful for the Working Groups to help them finalise the speaker selection process. Before the summer break, the Secretariat will ask for final approval of the agenda, including speakers, in a written procedure.

We will also hear from CADE Brazil, our 2024 conference host, about the planned conference date.

OECD Liaison

As always at our meetings in Paris, the OECD Liaison will inform the SG about OECD projects.

Best wishes,

Andreas Mundt