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President Federal Cartel Office

9 September 2021

**Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 15 September 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that at our next meeting we will welcome two new SG members: Brenda Hernández Ramírez, the new interim Chair of COFECE, Mexico, and Alexandre Cordeiro, the new President of CADE Brazil.

Given that the term of Alejandra Palacios as President of COFECE, who acted as ICN Vice Chair for Younger Agencies and Regional Diversity, came to an end, we need to find a new Vice Chair. At the meeting, I will nominate Rod Sims, Chair of the ACCC. I believe that based on his knowledge and experience as Horizontal Coordinator he will be able to facilitate the dialogue between working groups, particularly with regard to digital issues, in order to further improve ICN internal coordination as well as the promotion of ICN work in this area. Furthermore, he will be able to support agencies in the Asia-Pacific region facing the challenges of the time zone in their engagement with the ICN.

According to the ICN Operational Framework, the incoming SG shall be confirmed in odd-numbered years at the ICN Annual Conference. The outgoing SG shall recommend the composition of the incoming SG, a challenging task given that all members offered to continue serving as SG members, and at the same time the ICN Secretariat received six additional expressions of interest from the Bangladesh CC, Colombian SIC, Hellenic CC, India CCI, Kenya CAK and Philippine CC. The SG consists of 18 elected members and three ex officio members representing Annual Conference hosts serving a three-year term. Based on the fact that the SG currently does not reach the total number of 21 because there are elected members who have hosted and will host the Annual Conference, I suggest a flexible approach which will allow us to offer two agencies SG membership. The interest expressed by all the agencies is very much appreciated. Considering ICN involvement and regional diversity there might be strong

arguments in favour of the agencies of Kenya and Colombia. The ongoing Third Decade overhaul of the Operational Framework includes a discussion on the number of SG members as well as on the term “ex officio”. We should also make use of the Third Decade project to explore ways to foster rotation in the future and to explain that a high level of involvement is expected from all SG members.

This will be our last SG meeting before the virtual Annual Conference to be held from 13-15 October 2021. The conference website is live, registration is open, and the preparatory calls for the sessions are running. We will hear a final update on conference planning.

We will then turn to the first traditional workshop which will be hosted by the Portuguese AdC and will take place from 17 to 19 November 2021 in Lisbon. The number of in-person attendees will be restricted due to health regulations, but the hybrid format will also allow for online attendants.

At the Annual Conference the work products will be presented to the ICN membership. Next week the working group Co-chairs will ask for SG approval or provide updates where work is still ongoing. This will include the first report provided by the ICN Framework for Competition Agency Procedures (ICN CAP) which highlights high-level themes observed through analysis of ICN CAP templates as well as individual experiences illustrated by interviews that took place during the ICN CAP Participant Meeting in October 2020.

The ICN Horizontal Coordinator will present the Interim Report on the short form work plans for the 2021-22 ICN year. When looking at the report we need to consider that this will be a very short ICN year.

To continue the substantive exchange on issues relevant for agency leadership I have invited the US DOJ to present current legislative proposals in the US Congress.

I look forward to speaking with you next Wednesday.

Best wishes,

Andreas Mundt