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20 April 2023

### **Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 26 April 2023**

Dear colleagues,

I am looking forward to our meeting on 26 April and I am particularly happy that Andrea Marván Saltiel, who has recently been appointed President of Mexico's Federal Economic Competition Commission, will join us. COFECE is a very active ICN member and I am excited to maintain this close cooperation.

#### **3D ICN Check-In**

Within the scope of the Third Decade review we have established an Annual Check-In to confirm members' contact information and invite direct feedback on ICN activities. We are currently in the midst of evaluating the ICN-Check-In responses. So far, 89 agencies have responded and I am hopeful that we will be able to encourage further ICN members to participate. At next week's meeting I will report on our evaluation results. The feedback is very positive. A majority of the responding agencies have been actively participating in the network. Furthermore, the ICN apparently also seems attractive to those agencies which have so far not actively participated in any of the working groups: about two-thirds of those agencies at least used ICN work products in 2022. We also asked members to provide input and we have received many valuable suggestions for new topics and further improvements to the network as well as for success stories regarding ICN implementation.

#### **Annual Conference**

The preparations for the ICN Annual Conference, which will take place in Barcelona from 18 to 20 October 2023, are in full swing. The ICN Secretariat will provide us with a first overview of plenary topics. Our goal should be to advance conference planning as far as possible until the northern hemisphere summer-break.

**Working Groups**

Within the scope of our SG meetings, the ICN Working Groups give regular updates on their running projects. This time the Merger Working Group will report on its running projects.

The ACCC, in its role as horizontal co-ordinator, will provide an overview of what to expect in terms of written work products for the upcoming Annual Conference in Barcelona.

**SG Members' Hot Topics Presentation**

We will continue the series of SG members' hot topics discussions based on an introduction by Gina Cass-Gottlieb, Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Following up nicely on our last hot topics discussion, she will be focusing on digital economy issues in Australia. SG members will be invited to bring in their perspectives and experience.

**Other Business**

As every year, the Working Group leadership will rotate: in each of the Working Groups, one of the three co-chairs will leave and a new co-chair will join. The rotation itself will take place at the Annual Conference in Barcelona. However, since we want to set the course for the rotation before the summer-break, the ICN Secretariat will present a timeline. The Secretariat will also present the ICN account.

Best wishes,

Andreas Mundt