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## **Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 2 December 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

This is our first meeting in 2021 and I wish all of you the best for the new year! My first ICN highlight this year was the review of some of the Third Decade survey replies. There are so many great ideas and it made me particularly happy that so many agencies make use of ICN work products and consider them helpful.

We have a full agenda for our meeting, starting with the ICN Calendar of Events including workshops. The Merger Working Group will organize a virtual event in April together with the Promotion and Implementation Team. The Cartel Working Group and the Advocacy Working Group are aiming at in-person events in Portugal and Spain at the end of 2021 or beginning of 2022. On 2 February, the first 'ICN Virtual Spotlight' will take place and I am very interested to hear from Andrea Coscelli on how to lead an agency through change.

The 2021 Annual Conference host will present a draft plan for the conference as a basis for discussion. Budapest will be the first hybrid Annual Conference which will affect the timing and structure of the event.

Because of all the uncertainties due to the COVID-19 pandemic the discussion on a potential host for the 2022 ICN Annual Conference is very challenging. In our meeting we will continue the discussion and we will aim to reach a decision.

The project on competition law enforcement at the intersection between competition, consumer protection, and privacy is well on track. The project team will present the Issues Identification Paper for Steering Group approval.

Alejandra Palacios, the Vice Chair for Younger Agencies and Regional Diversity, initiated the Bridging Project in 2019 and will present a report which inter alia evaluates the Bridging Project

pilot program which aims at bringing together young and small member agencies with Steering Group members.

At our last meeting the Membership Working Group presented the application for ICN membership of the Eurasian Economic Commission and shared UNCTAD's 2020 assessment of the Eurasian Economic Union competition rules and regulations. Next week the Steering Group will be asked to make a decision.

ICN Training on Demand has created a variety of training videos, all available on the ICN website and the ICN YouTube channel. The team is working on several new modules and will provide a brief update.

The ICN/OECD joint work on co-operation is another success story. The report is now available on the ICN and OECD websites. Again, many thanks to all involved!

Finally, the ICN Secretariat will inform us about a request by the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) to circulate a GPA survey on cooperation to limited ICN membership.

I look forward to speaking with you next Wednesday.

With best regards,

Andreas Mundt