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### **Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 28 October 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

Next week we will continue our discussion on ICN events in 2021. Based on the results of our last Steering Group meeting, the working group Co-Chairs are making good progress towards a coherent package. It is great to see with how much energy and creativity they are reacting to the new situation.

The Co-Chairs follow an approach of intensified coordination and cooperation between the working groups in order to include already planned events such as webinars, and to combine them with additional elements such as town hall calls and heads of agencies sessions organized by the Steering Group as well as interactive workshop elements. The Merger Working Group is considering a virtual event in spring and P&I has offered to support the working groups.

However, we need to keep in mind that the workload of the working groups is already high and carefully strike a balance between additional attractive virtual ICN events and leaving the working groups with enough energy to continue their important work on written products.

We can build on the success of the series of conference events that will soon be concluded. The number of participants illustrates that we are clearly meeting a demand, and the coordinated timing and promotion sharpen the ICN's profile and at the same time relieve the Co-chairs.

I am confident that we will be able to adopt an ICN Calendar of Events 2021 in our December meeting.

Although the 2020 ICN Annual Conference events are still running, preparations for 2021 are already starting. The aim is to finish the draft agenda and to approve speakers before the summer break. We all very much hope that we can meet in person in Budapest.

The 3D Co-chairs have finalized the questionnaire which will be circulated to members shortly. They will update the SG members on the next steps.

In our meeting we will also hear a report from the UNCTAD Liaison, and the OECD Liaison will provide a preview on the coming OECD week. You have received the revised draft report on the joint ICN/OECD project on cooperation for your information. We will discuss and adopt the final version in December. Although we cannot meet in Paris, we are keeping the traditional date during the OECD week for the Steering Group meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, 2 December 2020 after the OECD events.

I will try to keep next week's meeting short. We are all very busy, not least due to the rapidly increasing COVID-19 numbers, at least in Europe. In our meeting we can explore whether a heads of agencies session on COVID-19 related issues still in 2020 would be helpful to ICN members.

I look forward to speaking with you next Wednesday.

With best regards,

Andreas Mundt