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### **Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 5 May 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

At our last meeting we discussed the general form for the 2021 ICN Annual Conference. Based on our discussion the conference host, the Hungarian Competition Authority, has decided to organise a virtual conference in October 2021. This means that the structure of the event needs to be adapted. The conference host will present a week-at-a-glance and ask for Steering Group approval. The host and the working groups will remain flexible with respect to slight amendments, but they need a Steering Group approved basis to continue the planning.

This will be the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and to celebrate the anniversary there are plans to dedicate a subsection of the ICN website to written contributions dealing with the ICN. This project would be connected to the ICN@20 book project led by two ICN NGAs, but would not be limited to contributions published in the book.

We will then turn to the 2022 Annual Conference which will take place in Berlin 3-6 May 2022.

Given that currently the working groups are not able to organise in-person workshops, the Promotion and Implementation Group (P&I) is in the process of developing an interactive virtual workshop with some of the working groups and will present ideas for a series of events which are tentatively scheduled to be held in September 2021.

Together with the OECD, the ICN drafted a Joint Report on International Enforcement Co-operation approved by the SG on 2 December 2020. The Report includes considerations for future ICN and OECD initiatives to support co-operation. Also in December, the SG established a special project group to consider and co-ordinate issues relating to international enforcement co-operation. Next week, this group which is led by the ACCC, AGCM, US FTC and AdC, will present ideas for future work as a basis for proposals that will be made to the SG for approval at a future meeting.

The 3D project is running at full speed and the project team will present preliminary results.

Finally, I want to make you aware of two initiatives concerning international cooperation: a G7 project on digital and technology where on 28 April 2021 the ministers agreed to a [declaration](#) which inter alia covers cooperation on digital competition, and a recent [statement on merger control enforcement](#). Both initiatives might not be linked to ICN work in a strict sense, but given the prominent position of the ICN in the competition world, we could consider adding such brief updates to future SG meetings, when appropriate.

I look forward to speaking with you next Wednesday.

With best regards,

Andreas Mundt