

Andreas Mundt  
Chairman ICN Steering Group  
President Bundeskartellamt

8 January 2025

## **Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 15 January 2025**

Dear colleagues,

I wish you all a happy 2025 and look forward to our first meeting in the new year.

### **ICN Secretariat**

The ICN is undergoing a process of transition and this meeting will mark another step that is unique in the history of our network: for the first time, the SG members will be asked to approve a new Secretariat. The Canadian Competition Bureau has acted as the ICN Secretariat since the Network was created. We all recognise the significant amount of work this has involved and I want to express my sincere gratitude for the Competition Bureau's dedication over more than two decades. The SG agreed to design the future ICN Secretariat as a multi-agency team. The Italian AGCM volunteered to serve as an "anchor" agency, and several more agencies are willing to contribute. Many thanks to all volunteers for their willingness to follow in the footsteps of the previous Secretariat and to bring new perspectives and voices to this important role. We are thankful that the Competition Bureau, besides continuing to contribute to the ICN in many other roles, will continue to actively assist the selected agencies.

### **Annual Conference**

The [2025 Annual Conference](#) will take place in Edinburgh from 7 to 9 May 2025. At our last meeting, we approved a promising agenda. The Working Groups are now compiling an overview of possible speakers reflecting the global nature and variety of our network, including moderators with the experience and willingness to play a key role in the organisation of the sessions. The UK CMA will provide a brief update on the conference planning.

**Working Groups**

We will hear from the Advocacy Working Group about their ongoing work. The Working Group will also present its report “Assessing progress in development of successful advocacy strategies to the judiciary” for SG approval.

**Operational Framework**

The Operational Framework Working Group has continued its series of calls and made further progress in revising the framework, aiming at finalising the review process in time for the annual conference and presenting the updated text to the ICN membership in Edinburgh. At our meeting, the co-chairs will present the current status.

**Membership**

It is good to see that the ICN is an attractive network and that agencies from all over the world seek admission. The Membership Working Group will present their assessment of the application of the Iraqi Competition and Anti-Trust Council for SG approval. Regarding the Secretariat for Economic Reforms of the Brazilian Ministry of Finance, the Working Group will propose to decline this application in line with the well-established practice of deeming having only one subset of competition law and policy not sufficient.

**SG Members’ Hot Topics Presentation**

The 2026 ICN Annual Conference will be hosted by the Philippine Competition Commission. I am very happy that at our meeting we will learn about current hot topics in the Philippines based on a presentation by Chairperson Michael G. Aguinaldo. As always, we are aiming at a lively discussion and all SG members will be invited to bring in their perspectives and experience.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

Best wishes,

Andreas Mundt