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Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 17 January 2024

Dear colleagues,

Our meeting on 17 January will be our first meeting after the festive season. I hope you got some time to spend with your families and wish you all the best for 2024.

For the ICN this will be a short year with only four Steering Group meetings before our next annual conference in Brazil.

ICN Annual Conference

The ICN Annual Conference will take place in Salvador, Costa do Saúpe, from 14 to 17 May 2024. Preparations are well underway and CADE will present an update on the planning. The logistics have been arranged and the focus now lies on preparing the agenda together with the working groups.

Advocacy Workshop

We will hear an update from the Competition Authority of Kenya on the Advocacy Workshop in Nairobi which will take place from 22 to 23 February 2024. The title of the workshop is “Bouncing Back: Competition Advocacy and Resilience to Global Shocks”; you will find further information under the following [link](#). Registration is open until 30 January 2024.

There will also be a pre-workshop under the title “Digital Markets Advocacy Workshop: An in-depth discussion of market studies and inquiries” on 21 February 2024 hosted by the Competition Authority of Kenya together with the US FTC.

The next ICN event after the Advocacy Workshop will be the ICN Technologists Group Forum on 25 and 26 March 2024, which will be hosted by the US FTC in Washington DC. We will hear more about the ICN Technologists Group Forum at our next Steering Group meeting in February.

Working Group Status Reports

The working group work plans have already been approved. You will find the Horizontal Coordinators "[ICN in brief overview](#)" on the ICN website. All working groups will have the opportunity to provide more details on their plans and share the progress of their projects at the following Steering Group meetings. Given the upcoming Advocacy Workshop, we will start with the Advocacy Working Group.

ICN Operational Framework

At our last Steering Group meeting on 6 December 2023 we discussed the review of the operational framework which was initiated as part of the "Third Decade" (3D) project to prepare for future developments and challenges in the ICN's third decade. We have identified relevant issues to be addressed in order to shape the mandate of the Operational Framework Working Group led by the Canadian Competition Bureau and the Indian Competition Commission. On 21 December 2023 the Operational Framework Working Group had their first group call. Further group calls will follow and we will include short, regular updates in our Steering Group meetings to keep everyone informed on the progress of the discussions.

SG Members' Hot Topics Presentation

I am very pleased that so many Steering Group members have already contributed to the Hot Topics series and shared their views and visions. Next week Nuno Cunha Rodrigues, President of the Portuguese AdC, will focus on competition and generative artificial intelligence. An issues paper by the AdC can be accessed [here](#). AI is a highly relevant topic with a significant and widespread impact on the economy worldwide. We already had an in-depth discussion on AI at our Head of Agency Session in Barcelona and I encourage all Steering Group members to actively participate in next week's discussion and bring in their perspectives and experience.

As already mentioned, you will need to register for the meeting in advance for reasons of safety and transparency.

I look forward to seeing you next week, at least virtually.

Best wishes,

Andreas Mundt