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## **Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 20 March 2024**

Dear colleagues,

The next Steering Group meeting on 20 March is the penultimate meeting before this year's annual conference. We are now entering the final spurt of the short ICN year which will be an intensive but exciting time for all of us.

### **ICN Annual Conference**

The ICN Annual Conference in Sauipe, Brazil is fast approaching. Invitations have been sent out and ICN members are asked to nominate their NGAs and to register via the [conference website](#). The working groups have put a lot of effort into the selection of speakers and we will discuss and decide on their proposal at our meeting. I would also like to encourage everyone to participate in this year's [Competition Advocacy Contest](#).

### **ICN Operational Framework**

One of the key topics of our upcoming meeting will be an insight into the current status of the discussion surrounding the revision of the Operational Framework. Since our last Steering Group meeting, two group calls have taken place and five more calls are planned before the annual conference. In addition to the regular update from the Operational Framework working group, I would like to take the opportunity to provide the Steering Group with room for questions and feedback on the ongoing revision process.

### **Workshops**

The Advocacy Workshop in Nairobi from 22 to 23 February was a great success and I look forward to a brief recap from the Competition Authority of Kenya. In addition, we will be provided with information on the next Cartels Workshop, hosted by the Mexican COFECE. We will also hear an update on the ICN's first Technologists Group Forum which will take place in Washington D.C. from 25 to 26 March, hosted by the US FTC. Digital and tech skillsets are of

growing importance to our agencies and we have seen a lot of enthusiasm from our teams to interact in the newly established ICN Tech Group. Our hosts are planning to use the event to encourage coordinated statements by participating agencies to signal support for agency tech capacity building, a new format for ICN events.

### **Working Group Status Reports**

We are continuing with the Working Group Status Reports in which the working groups have the opportunity to provide more details on their plans and share the progress of their projects. At our last meetings, the Advocacy Working Group and the Unilateral Conduct Working Group informed us about their ongoing activities and projects. This time, an update will be provided by the Agency Effectiveness Working Group.

### **SG Members' Hot Topics Presentation**

This time, our Hot Topics Discussion will focus on market definition in digital markets. The topic will be introduced by DG COMP who will present the [European Commission's revised Market Definition Notice](#). It is the first revision of the Notice since its adoption and takes significant developments such as digitalisation into account. I encourage all Steering Group members to actively participate and bring in their perspectives.

Please 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