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Chairman ICN Steering Group
President Bundeskartellamt

28 November 2024

Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 4 December 2024

Dear colleagues,

Our next SG meeting will take place on 4 December in Paris. There are several topics of strategic relevance on the agenda which will require your consideration and input. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format to ensure inclusiveness.

ICN Transition

In September we established a process and timeline to ensure a smooth transition based on well-informed decisions. At the upcoming meeting, candidates will present their preliminary expressions of interest in the Chair position. At this stage, no written materials are required and no decisions will be taken. If there are more candidates, please let me know in time before our meeting so that we can adjust the allocated time accordingly. We will also hear an update on the plans to establish a multi-agency Secretariat. SG approval and handover are scheduled for our meeting in January. The door is still open for agencies willing to contribute. The team is already very impressive and at this stage it might be advisable to stick to a manageable size. Again, many thanks for your commitment and ICN enthusiasm.

2025 Annual Conference in Edinburgh

The UK CMA, which will host the 2025 Annual Conference in Edinburgh from 7 to 9 May 2025, will share an update on the planning of the event. In our meeting the CMA will be seeking SG approval of the draft agenda. As in the past there may be some room for flexibility, but please keep in mind that the agenda is the basis for the upcoming call for expressions of interest to participate as a speaker in the conference.

Operational Framework

The Operational Framework Working Group continued its series of meetings and has prepared a well-advanced draft. At our meeting, the Co-chairs will present the status and invite feedback

from SG members on fundamental issues such as ICN membership criteria, engagement with other governmental bodies or the composition of the SG.

Workshops

The CWG Co-chairs will present a proposal for the selection of the 2025/26 Cartel Workshop host for SG approval. The Operational Framework Working Group Co-chairs will present their requested advice to the SG on the issue of non-members hosting ICN events.

The Advocacy Working Group Co-chairs will propose the competition agency of Armenia as 2025/2026 Advocacy Workshop host for SG approval.

In November the Taiwan FTC held a very successful Merger Workshop in Taipei. We will hear a brief report back.

NGA engagement

At our meeting in October, the ICN/NGA Liaison initiated a first discussion on NGA involvement, which was met with great interest. In order to establish a firm basis for future discussions, the ICN/NGA Liaison is considering holding a stocktaking exercise and an NGA session at the next ICN Annual Conference. SG members will be invited to comment and provide input.

OECD

Finally, the ICN/OECD Liaison will share an overview of OECD work relevant to ICN projects or activities.

Please make sure to arrive 10-15 minutes early to accommodate the OECD security screening. We can then begin the meeting promptly at 8:15 am.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

Best wishes,

Andreas Mundt