

Andreas Mundt
Chairman ICN Steering Group
President Bundeskartellamt

31 October 2024

Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 6 November 2024

Dear colleagues,

Our next SG meeting will take place on 6 November. We will continue the series of working group reports, move forward on technical issues concerning the ICN Secretariat and the Operational Framework and cover future ICN events.

Working Group status reports

The Agency Effectiveness Working Group and Unilateral Conduct Working Group are very active and will report on their ongoing work. A list of projects will be circulated in preparation of the meeting.

ICN Secretariat

In order to meet the increasing demands of our growing network, the future ICN Secretariat will be designed as a multi-agency team, with an “anchor” agency taking on the Secretariat’s core tasks and coordinating the team as well as more agencies taking on discrete tasks within the wider Secretariat. Following a call for expressions of interest circulated via email on 6 September 2024, the following agencies expressed their willingness to contribute: Australia ACCC, Canada CB, Italy AGCM, Singapore CCCS, South Africa CC, UK CMA and US FTC. The BKartA is, of course, always willing to support the ICN wherever helpful. At our meeting, we will discuss how a concrete structure and allocation of tasks could look like. We will adhere to the approved Transition Timeline, which means that no decisions on positions will be taken at this SG meeting. The selection of the Secretariat by the SG and the handover to the new Secretariat are planned for the SG meeting in January 2025.

In this context, I would like to remind you that the Chair selection process as specified in the ICN Operational Framework will be initiated three months before the 2025 Annual Conference. I would also like to remind you that SG members are invited to submit preliminary expressions of interest for the Chair position before the SG meeting scheduled to take place in December

2024, which will then be presented at that meeting in order to give the SG members a holistic and comprehensive perspective on all personnel decisions. No written materials are required at this stage. If you have any questions regarding the Chair position or the selection process, or if there are any concerns about the envisioned timeline, please feel free to reach out to me directly (andreas.mundt@bundeskartellamt.bund.de) or contact my team.

Operational Framework

The Operational Framework Working Group held three meetings in October. Next week, the SG members will hear about the progress achieved.

Annual Conferences

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, which is very well on track.

Workshops

At the SG meeting on 9 October 2024, CADE expressed their interest in hosting the next Unilateral Conduct Workshop in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. As this workshop was not on the agenda of the last meeting, the SG members were given additional time for comments or questions. I am very happy to inform you that neither the Secretariat nor the Chair's Office has received any additional questions and CADE is therefore approved as the host for the 2024/25 UC workshop.

The Merger Workshop, which will be hosted by the Taiwan FTC from 13 to 15 November 2024, is getting closer. At next week's meeting, the Working Group Co-chairs will provide a preview.

On 9 October, we briefly touched on the host selection process for the 2025/26 Cartel Workshop. Next week, the Working Group Co-chairs will present a memorandum assessing the proposals to host the workshop, which will be shared in preparation of the SG meeting.

Please register for the SG meeting in advance and bear in mind that some jurisdictions have switched to winter time.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

Best wishes,

Andreas Mundt