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President Bundeskartellamt

2 October 2024

Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 9 October 2024

Dear colleagues,

At this year's successful ICN kick-off call on 18 September the working groups and project teams shared an impressive range of activities and encouraged member and NGA engagement. At our meeting on 9 October, we will start a series of working group updates, delving a bit deeper to provide all Steering Group members with the overview and insights required to guide the network.

Merger Working Group

As a start, we will hear from the Merger Working Group about its activities with a focus on its work on the [ICN Recommended Practices for Merger Analysis](#), which includes several updates as well as new sections. We will also hear from the ICN/OECD Liaison as the OECD is currently reviewing its Recommendation on Merger Review.

Annual Conference

The planning of the 2025 Annual Conference is well on track and very promising. The CMA will provide an update and outline the next steps. A milestone on the way to Edinburgh will be the presentation and approval of the draft conference agenda, which is planned for the Steering Group meeting in December.

Workshops

The 2024 ICN Cartel Workshop in Mexico is running, and we will hear a very fresh report at next week's Steering Group meeting.

The Hungarian Competition Authority GVH has volunteered to host the 2025 ICN Chief/Senior Economists Workshop in Budapest from 23 to 25 April 2025 and will seek Steering Group approval.

Furthermore, we will hear a first update on the selection process for the 2025 Cartel Workshop, which involves Operational Framework issues including the scope for ICN member hosts to coordinate with non-members in hosting events. No decision will be taken at this stage.

NGA involvement

When the ICN was established it was decided that - as former ICN Chair Konrad von Finckenstein put it - NGAs would be welcomed and were needed given the all-encompassing nature of competition. At our meeting, we will start a first exchange regarding the current status of NGA involvement and ideas for the way forward.

Operational Framework

The Operational Framework Working Group will provide an update on the review process.

Please register for the meeting in advance. I look forward to seeing you next week.

Best wishes,

Andreas Mundt