



**ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, September 16th, 2015, 14:00 (Brussels)**

Attendees

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense
Competition Bureau Canada
Competition Commission of Singapore
Competition Commission of South Africa
European Commission DG Competition
French Autorité de la concurrence
German Bundeskartellamt
Japan Fair Trade Commission
Italian Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato
Korean Fair Trade Commission
Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission
Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets
Portuguese Competition Authority
Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service
United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority
United States Department of Justice
United States Federal Trade Commission

Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Chair Andreas Mundt welcomed the Steering Group (SG) members.

The Steering Group approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the SG meeting on June 17, 2015.

Item 2: ICN Next steps

The Chair briefly presented potential future topics and ideas on next steps for the ICN based on a draft paper that was circulated before the meeting and then opened the floor for comments.

The Steering Group agreed that the policy issues and the future topics listed in the draft paper reflected the main areas that were recently discussed within the ICN. There was also general consensus that the actual work should be done by the working groups. Dedicated teleseminars could be a good start to deal with the topics of vertical and non-hard-core restraints and the interplay between competition law and intellectual property. The topic of joint ventures might be an issue for future work. The SG could serve as an “incubator” for ideas in order to “shape” the topic.

The choice of the Singapore CC to deal with disruptive innovations in the 2016 Special Project was very welcomed.

The Steering Group discussed about ways to improve the involvement of younger agencies. Instruments suggested in the draft paper included Twinning or Mentoring Programs between young and mature agencies, break-out sessions by young agencies for young agencies, special sessions at the ICN workshops, calls and sessions in other languages (French and Spanish). It was acknowledged that twinning programs can be challenging because they presuppose that the the older agency has a good knowledge of the situation and the needs of the younger agency in order for the twinning to be useful. General policy suggestions may be useful where appropriate. Young agencies could also learn from experiences of other young agencies and the SG will continue to reflect on how to further encourage the interaction with and among young agencies and make it more effective.

Item 3: 2016 Special Project

The CCS presented the outline of the brief and questionnaire to be sent to ICN members for the 2016 Special Project on disruptive innovations. He invited members to send comments till the end of September. The CCS plans on sending out the questionnaire in the middle of October.

Item 4: 2016 Cartel Workshop

The CWG Co-chairs proposed the Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia (Spain) as host agency for the 2016 Cartel Workshop. The SG approved.

Item 5: 2016 Economist Workshop

ICN-OECD-Liaison John Pecman announced that the Canadian Competition Bureau, in cooperation with the University of British Columbia, is planning an Economist Workshop to be held in September 2016 in Vancouver. The Workshop should cover a broad range of topics including dedicated staff, evidence in merger proceeding etc.

Item 6: Other issues

The Chair invited the Operational Framework Working Group (OFWG) to update the SG on ongoing relevant topics. The OFWG Co-chairs reported on the topics of ex-officio membership and of funding of ICN events. The Chair invited the OFWG to prepare a brief note with some proposals on these topics and circulate the document as a basis for discussion at the next meeting face to face in Paris. The Chair also reminded the SG about another important institutional issue that needs to be addressed, namely the issue on how to deal with requests on ICN membership by regulators.

Item 7: Future SG meetings

The next SG meeting will be held on October 18th, 2015 at the margin of the OECD meeting in Paris.