



**ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2015, 8:15 am (Brussels)**

Attendees

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense
Competition Bureau Canada
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 thanked the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) once more for the very successful 2015 Annual Conference in Sydney.

The Steering Group (SG) approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the SG meeting on May 1st 2015.

Item 2: Work plans

The Horizontal Coordinator presented his final report on the 2015-2016 working group work plans. There were no major changes to the work plans following the Annual Conference. The Horizontal Coordinator pointed at a quite intensive schedule of Workshops for the fall: MWG on 24-25 September 2015 in Brussels, CWG on 18-21 October 2015 in Colombia, UCWG in November 2015 in Istanbul. There was agreement that two potential workshops of the AEWG and the AWG should be scheduled only in the second half of the ICN year (2016), if possible.

The work plans were approved.

Item 3: ICN 2015/2016 what next?

Andreas Mundt led a discussion on potential future topics and strategies, based on a draft paper that was circulated before the meeting.

The Steering Group agreed to have regular discussions on general policy issues and potential new topics that the ICN might deal with and which are not yet covered by the regular planning of the existing WGs every year. Topics that were raised and supported included vertical restraints in the online world, disruptive innovation, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), the interplay between IPR and competition law; the interplay between competition law and industrial policy, public interest considerations in merger cases and work on joint ventures. Depending on the topic it would have to be decided in which way to organise follow-on work. In most cases ICN work should mainly be developed by the working groups. There was agreement that the ICN should combine resources with the OECD where appropriate, to avoid duplication. The choice of the Singapore CC to deal with disruptive innovations in the 2016 Special Project was welcomed.

As a second point the Steering Group discussed the importance of improving efforts to advocate and implement ICN work products in individual agencies and jurisdictions. There was broad agreement that implementation was best addressed by the individual working groups and that it would be useful to collect success stories on the impact of implementation to share as examples.

Steering Group members also considered new and creative ideas to improve the involvement of younger agencies. Instruments suggested included to take inspiration from Twinning and Mentoring Programs between young and mature agencies, to team up individual members for more regular bilateral cooperation, to arrange specific sessions for younger agencies or breakout sessions in other languages (such as FR or SP), to create guidance for younger agencies how to engage with other members and to make some work documents more “accessible” for less experienced agencies.

Item 4: ICN-OECD Liaison

ICN-OECD-Liaison John Pecman (Canadian Competition Bureau) welcomed the broad OECD representation in Sydney in plenary sessions as well as in BOS. He informed about parallel work on several topics (online verticals, disruptive technologies; public interest considerations in merger cases; potential long-term project on market studies, SOEs) and reported on discussions with the OECD Secretariat to avoid overlaps. He suggested to hold a Working Group Chairs meeting as soon as possible to discuss the issue.

Item 5: Membership WG

The application of the Kuwait Competition Authority for ICN membership was approved.

With regard to other applications for membership it was concluded that more information was needed.

Item 6: Other issues

The Chair invited ICN members to provide comments on the Special Project for the 2016 Annual Conference on the topic “disruptive technologies and government advocacy” to the Competition Commission of Singapore.

The European Commission gave an update on the preparation for the Merger Workshop in Brussels on 24/25 September, invited members to register and to propose NGAs from the respective countries. DG COMP would try to accommodate the requests depending on availability.

The updated 2015 Work Products Catalogue was approved.

Item 7: Future SG meetings

The next SG meeting will be held on September 16th, 2015. The following meetings are scheduled for October 28th (at the margins of the OECD), 18 November (can be cancelled if required) and 16 December 2015.