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President Federal Cartel Office

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### **Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 9 May 2018**

Dear colleagues,

The ICN working groups started the ICN year with a very successful welcome call on 23 May. The number of 143 participants illustrates the ICN community's interest in the plans and projects for 2018/19.

In our meeting in Paris next week, the Horizontal Coordinator will present the report on the updated work plans. The working group co-chairs will present any new projects added to the work plans after the annual conference in Delhi and I will ask you to approve the work plans. We all hope that they will be available on the new ICN website soon. The website team will keep us informed.

A second focus will be on conference planning. From our lively discussion in May I have taken that the SG was very pleased with the planning of the 2018 conference but is willing to fine-tune and further improve the planning process. SG members brought forward several suggestions and ideas. Firstly, SG members considered more guidance and oversight of the SG appropriate especially regarding plenary sessions. It was suggested to establish a process in line with the presentation of the work plans by the Horizontal Coordinator, i.e. a dedicated person or group of people presenting the conference planning to the SG at certain milestones. In general, planning should start earlier, particularly the planning of the format of plenary sessions that should be presented to the SG together with the topics. Secondly, it was suggested to develop guidance for the working groups that would form the basis of the oversight by the SG. Finally, it became obvious that SG members are open to new formats and that the special project might be an opportunity to try something new in cooperation with the SG. We have not taken any decisions yet and new ideas and thoughts are welcome in our meeting in Paris. The co-chairs have developed and discussed guiding principles for conference planning which might be a good start for our discussion next week.

Finally, as always, our ICN/OECD liaison will inform us about planned OECD projects. There are potential overlaps that require coordination or better there are opportunities for cooperation.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Paris.

With best regards,

Andreas Mundt