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President Federal Cartel Office

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**Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 25 January, 2017**

Dear colleagues,

First of all, I wish you and your families a Happy New Year! We will start our first Steering Group meeting in 2017 with an important decision: The Second Decade Follow-up Survey results clearly state that our members and NGAs consider the website essential for our virtual organisation and that there is room for improvement. Now we have to decide how we should approach the overhaul of the ICN website. Is an update sufficient or should we take the chance for a fresh new start? The Change Committee's website team will present a detailed proposal including cost estimates and ask the SG for its approval.

We will then turn to the 2017 ICN Annual Conference in Porto. The Portuguese Competition Authority will provide an update on the planning and present the Special Project topic. We will briefly touch on the press policy for the conference. However, the current plan is to follow the approach applied in Singapore and Sydney. The working groups have put together a list of possible plenary speakers, allowing the SG to take a look from an overarching perspective. In my view two key factors should be considered: firstly, we are aiming at lively, interactive, even controversial discussions. The working groups are of course best placed to plan their sessions accordingly. The second factor is diversity in terms of geography, agency/NGAs and gender. The plenary sessions should reflect the diversity of the ICN which is a key to the success of our network. In this regard the discussion on SG level might provide valuable input. The Co-Chairs discussed the possible speakers in their call on 18 January and are now revising the overall list which will be circulated to the SG on Monday.

Finally, the Horizontal Coordinator will briefly explain the process of establishing the work plans and we will hear an update from the Membership Working Group.

I am looking forward to speaking to you next week.

With best regards,

Andreas Mundt