



**ICN Steering Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 15 December 2021, 2:00pm CET**

**Attendees**

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense  
Competition Bureau Canada  
Colombian Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio  
European Commission DG Competition  
French Autorité de la concurrence  
German Bundeskartellamt  
Hungarian Gazdasági Versenyhivatal  
Italian Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato  
Japan Fair Trade Commission  
Kenya Competition Authority  
Korean Fair Trade Commission  
Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission  
Portuguese Competition Authority  
Federal Antimonopoly Service of the Russian Federation  
Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore  
Competition Commission of South Africa  
Turkish Competition Authority  
United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority  
United States Department of Justice  
United States Federal Trade Commission

**Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

The SG approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the SG meeting on 10 November 2021.

The Chair reported back from the ICN Spotlight discussion on the future direction of competition enforcement in the digital economy with Rod Sims, Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, which took place on 13 December 2021.

**Item 2: ICN Annual Conferences**

The President of the Hungarian Competition Authority and 2021 annual conference host, Csaba Rigó, presented the 2021 annual conference evaluation. The SG members again thanked President Rigó and his team for hosting this successful event.

In his capacity as host of the 2022 Annual Conference, the Chair updated the SG members on the conference which will take place in Berlin on 4-6 May 2022 at Steigenberger Hotel Berlin Kanzleramt and presented a week at a glance document including working titles for the plenary sessions:

- AWG: Enabling effective international enforcement cooperation through advocacy
- AEWG: How the pandemic has changed agencies' investigative processes
- CWG: Cartel enforcement in the next decade: priorities and new trends beyond the pandemic
- MWG: Challenges in merger control: Prohibitions and effective remedies
- UC: Issues in digital markets

The host informed the SG members that the plenary sessions will be streamed via the conference website; however, the breakout sessions will not be streamed.

### Item 3: Workshops

The Portuguese AdC reported back from the Cartel Workshop that took place in Portugal on 17-19 November 2021.

The Advocacy Workshop will be hosted by the Spanish CNMC in Barcelona in a hybrid format on 9 – 11 February 2022.

The Merger Workshop will take place in Brazil on 28 March – 1 April 2022, also in a hybrid format and will be limited to 100 in-person attendees.

The UCWG Workshop is planned to be held virtually in India in March 2022.

The Agency Effectiveness Working Group is considering holding a Chief/Senior Economist Workshop.

The Cartel Working Group presented the New Zealand competition authority as the host of the next Cartel Workshop planned for November 2022. The SG members welcomed this proposal and approved the New Zealand's Commerce Commission as the Cartel Workshop host.

### Item 4: Intersection Project

The SG project team "Competition law enforcement at the intersection between competition, consumer protection and privacy" presented a report circulated by the Secretariat in preparation of the meeting. The report is based on survey responses from ICN members and identifies common themes and trends. As next steps the project team proposed an agency consideration document as a user friendly, practical tool for agencies as well as a new section of ICN website for the project to make it more accessible.

### Item 5: Work Plans

The ICN Horizontal Coordinator (HC) presented the final report on 2021-22 work plans including Appendix A which provides an overview of 2021-22 work products and highlights cross-organisational themes such as digital, international enforcement cooperation, COVID-19.

The HC report recommends that Working Groups should explore opportunities to cooperate on these matters. A second recommendation concerns strategic planning.

The SG members thanked the HC for this important report. The members supported the proposal for cooperation between working groups and noted that the HC is best placed to facilitate this cooperation. Regarding strategic planning, the SG members noted the interplay between a more structured approach and the need for flexibility. The SG members will continue this discussion.

#### Item 6: SG members' hot topics presentation

The SG members discussed competition law and policy issues in South Africa and Kenya with a focus on digital issues and COVID-19 based on presentations by Francis Kariuki, Director-General of the Competition Authority of Kenya, and Tembinkosi Bonakele, Commissioner of the South African Competition Commission.

#### Item 7: Other Business

No other business was reported.

#### Item 8: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meeting will take place on 19 January 2022.