



ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, 30 March 2022, 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
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 16 February 2022.

Item 2: NGA Liaison

After consultation with the SG the Chair nominated Margarida Matos Rosa, President of the Portuguese AdC, as new Vice Chair. Ms Matos Rosa accepted.

Item 3: ICN Annual Conference

The 2022 Annual Conference host updated the SG members on the planning of the 21st ICN Annual Conference in Berlin from 4-6 May 2022. The SG approved the general plenary speaker

line-up but highlighted that more NGA engagement as plenary speakers is required and asked the working group co-chairs to improve the line-up in this respect.

Item 4: Workshops

The Unilateral Conduct Working Group Co-chairs provided a debrief on the virtual workshop hosted by the Indian Competition Authority from 22 to 23 March 2022. The Co-chairs also presented the JFTC as the host of the 2023 workshop which will take place in Tokyo, 7-8 March 2023.

Item 5: Cartel Working Group

The Cartel Working Group co-chairs provided an update on the various projects including the “Horizontal Cooperation Agreements and Crisis Cartels at times of Covid-19” project and the update of the Anti-Cartel Enforcement Template.

The working group organized a webinar on “A Trustbuster Toolbox for Managing Complex Cartel Cases” on 2 March 2022 and will hold webinars on “Implementing Effective Leniency Programs: Lessons Learnt and Challenges Ahead” on April 5/6 2022 and on “Assessing Crisis Cartels at Times of Covid-19: Lessons learnt from Past Crises” on 19 April 2022.

Item 6: Horizontal Coordinator

The Horizontal Coordinator (HC) informed SG members about work products expected to be finalised in the ICN year 2021/22 and provided a short update about the ongoing. The HC noted that as it is a shortened ICN year, fewer work products have been proposed to be finalised before the Annual Conference.

The projects of the Advocacy Working Group include the Advocacy Contest and the Advocacy Toolkit, the Agency Effectiveness Working Group the Post-COVID-19 Project, the Cartel Working Group Horizontal Cooperation and Crisis Cartels in time of Covid-19, the Merger Working Group is advancing work on several projects including the project on the Control of data, market power and potential competition in merger reviews, and the proposed update of the ICN Recommended Practices Chapter on Entry and expansion. The Unilateral Conduct Working Group is dealing with the Assessing Dominance in the Digital Era project. As part of this project, the working group continues working on a draft paper on “Market Shares and Barriers to Entry and Expansion in Digital Markets”. Furthermore, the Unilateral Conduct Working Group is working on a project on the Analysis of Theories of Harm and Design of Remedies Concerning Unilateral Conduct with Dominance/Substantial Market Power in Digital Markets.

Two ITOD modules approved in September 2021 are expected to be published on or around the Annual Conference: Public Affairs and Media Relations and Presenting Information to Decision Makers in Competition Investigations. Three other modules approved in September 2021 are already available on the ICN website: Encouraging Cartel Reporting, Document Review and Relationship Between Competition Agencies and Public Prosecutors.

The Horizontal Coordinator, Chair's Office and Secretariat is working on an internal 'one-stop shop' document that will show the status of current ICN projects and upcoming activities which will be implemented in the new ICN year.

Item 7: Working Group Leadership

The Secretariat provided a status report on the working group leadership rotation process.

- The new working group leadership will be approved at the SG meeting in April.

Item 8: ICN Finance

The Secretariat reported on the finances of ICN as well as on funding for the 2022 ICN Annual Conference for

- Bangladesh
- Ecuador
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Malaysia
- Nicaragua
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Zambia

Item 9: Other Business

The Chair informed SG members that the process of selecting a host for the ICN Annual Conference 2023 is still running. The Chair's office and the Secretariat are in contact with several agencies, but due to the pandemic and other constraints it is still difficult to find an adequate host agency.

Item 9: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meeting will take place on 27 April 2022.