



ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, 6 September 2023
8:00 Ottawa / 14:00 Bonn

Attendees

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense
Competition Bureau Canada
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
Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission
Portuguese Competition Authority
Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore
Competition Commission of South Africa
Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission
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 14 June 2023.

Item 2: ICN SG and Working Group Leadership

SG members discussed ICN Working Group leadership and, in line with the 3D recommendations, decided to increase the number of Co-Chair positions within the Working Groups by introducing an additional “acting” co-chair to accommodate the wish expressed by an increasing number of agencies to get even more involved in ICN work. The Operational Framework Working Group will organise a series of calls following the ICN Annual Conference in order to review the ICN Operational Framework.

The Chair outlined the process of the SG and Chair election, which will take place at the Annual Conference as defined in the ICN Operational Framework.

Item 3: Annual Conferences

The ICN Annual Conference will take place in Barcelona from 18 to 20 October 2023. The CNMC informed SG members about the current status of the preparations. SG members thanked President Fernández and her team at the CNMC.

ICN Vice Chair Sia Aik Kor, Chief Executive of the CCCS, presented her plans for the Head of Agency session on sustainability that will take place at the Annual Conference in Barcelona. ICN Vice Chair Lina Khan, Chairwoman of the US FTC, gave insight into the current status of the preparations for the Head of Agency session on generative AI and its competition implications.

Alexandre Cordeiro Macedo, President of CADE, provided an update on the 2024 Annual Conference that will take place in Brazil from 14 to 17 May 2024.

Sarah Cardell, Chief Executive of the CMA, reported on the current status of preparations for the 2025 Annual Conference.

Item 4: ICN projects

Doris Tshepe, Commissioner of the South African CC, and Dr Adano Wario Roba, Acting Director-General of the CAK Kenya, reported on recent developments regarding the SG project on competition concerns in agriculture and food markets with a focus on the needs of developing countries. They informed SG members that a BOS on that project will be held at the upcoming Annual Conference in Barcelona.

The ACCC Australia presented recent developments regarding the project on the intersection of competition, data and privacy, and informed SG members that there will be both a plenary session and a BOS on that subject at the Annual Conference in Barcelona. The project is led by the ACCC, the AGCM Italy, the CB Canada and the US FTC.

Item 5: Open ICN Programme and Focus Group

Andrea Marván Saltiel, Chair Commissioner of Cofece, informed SG members about the upcoming Focus Group call organised by Cofece. The ICN has introduced the Focus Group in order to implement the 3D recommendations. It provides a resource-light way for interested ICN members to participate in and access the ICN's ongoing work.

Item 6: Work products

The SG members approved two work products presented by the Advocacy Working Group: first, the Toolkit for Effective Communication of a Competition Advocacy Message, and second, the Toolkit on Optimizing Advocacy to Enhance International Cooperation Towards More Effective Enforcement.

Item 7: OECD Liaison Report

The ICN/OECD Liaison, Reiko Aoki, Commissioner JFTC, reported on current and future OECD activities.

Item 8: UNCTAD Liaison Report

The interim ICN/UNCTAD Liaison, Renato Ferrandi, AGCM Italy, reported back from the twenty-second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy.

The Chair invited SG members to express interest in the ICN/UNCTAD Liaison position.

Item 9: Other Business

No other business was reported.

Item 10: Future SG meetings

The next SG meetings will take place on 27 September and 20 October 2023.