



ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, 9 May 2018, 2pm 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
Competition Commission of India
Japan Fair Trade Commission
Italian Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato
Korean Fair Trade Commission
Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission
Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets
Portuguese Competition Authority
Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service
Competition Commission of Singapore
Competition Commission of South Africa
Spanish National Authority for Markets and Competition
United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority
United States Department of Justice
United States Federal Trade Commission

Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Chair, Andreas Mundt, welcomed the Steering Group (SG) members. The SG approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the SG meeting on March 23, 2018.

Item 2: Annual Conferences

The Chair invited members to continue the discussion on future ICN Annual Conferences. SG members highlighted that the ICN Annual Conference in New Delhi was very successful and that no major changes are required, but rather fine-tuning and improvement of the planning process. The current decentralized process might leave room for more guidance and oversight of the SG especially regarding plenary sessions. SG members considered establishing a process in line with the presentation of the work plans by the Horizontal Coordinator, i.e. a dedicated person or of group of people presenting the conference planning to the SG at certain milestones.

SG members highlighted that the ICN annual conference serves specific purposes that might differ from other conferences and that might require balancing, e.g. of diversity and inclusion and cutting edge discussions or the number of speakers and inclusion, diversity.

SG members suggested:

- Earlier preparation including discussion on selection of topics, selection of speakers and format of plenary sessions.
- Special project: more interaction with SG.
- Establishing guidance for the planning of plenary sessions and BOS.
- Reducing the number of speakers in sessions.
- An introduction of work product before the session.
- Short remarks by industry leaders.
- New formats, e.g. an interview on a topic of interest.
- A focused day on a specific topic.

Item 3: Workshop

The AEWG co-chairs provided a debrief on the Competition Economics Workshop, which was held from May 2-4, 2018 in Seoul, Korea. More than 80 participants from approximately 38 jurisdictions participated at this event. The Workshop was divided into two separate tracks, namely Fundamentals, topics discussed geared for younger jurisdictions and Special Topics, topics geared for more mature jurisdictions. Similar to the 2016 Chief/Economist Workshop, a report will be written outlining the discussions of this Workshop.

Item 4: Website

The website team informed the SG that the company that establishes the new ICN website experienced a data loss. The company plans to finalize the new website end of May 2018.

Item 5: NGA Engagement

The NGA Liaison reported on the NGA engagement BOS that took place at the 2018 annual conference. The attendance to this BOS was impressive, and the revised format – a panel of two NGAs and two agency representatives, from a variety of jurisdictions – worked very well. The topic of the perceived need to facilitate communication among NGAs, previously raised in a paper drafted by a few NGAs and in a document prepared by the Change Committee, approved by the Steering Group, was debated during this BOS. The Steering Group agreed this question should be addressed, and also that the ICN could benefit even more from NGAs' participation. The NGA Liaison will keep working in that direction.

Item 6. Implementation

The implementation team “Promotion & Implementation” (P&I) presented plans for the ICN year:

- Collection of implementation stories and creation of a virtual repository.

- Work with Secretariat to develop an all ICN member contact list.
- Work with France/Secretariat to develop an all ICN NGA list and working group NGA lists.
- Raising work product awareness by using all ICN information channels to showcase ICN work, translating specific work products and packaging product or events around themes, e.g., case-handler targeted work, etc.
- Cooperate with working groups (ICN workshops, self-assessment tools).
- Online implementation course on the ICN Training on Demand module.

Item 7. UNCTAD

The UNCTAD Liaison provided a debrief on the UNCTAD Discussion Group on International Cooperation established in July 2017 with the aim of increasing awareness of existing cooperation tools, legal issues and practical obstacles especially among younger agencies. As a first step, in November 2017 the UNCTAD Secretariat carried out a survey aimed at identifying the main obstacles to international cooperation. According to the interim report in April 2018, the main obstacles relate to lack of awareness of cooperation tools, legal issues and practical hurdles. The discussion group, which encompasses more than 40 jurisdictions from the five continents and international organizations like OECD and ECA, is growing thanks to the participation of younger agencies, which are the primary target and possible beneficiaries of the project.

To better exploit complementarities and synergies between the two organizations, the ICN/UNCTAD liaison suggested that ICN contribute to the discussions and works at UNCTAD on international cooperation and other matters of common interest, by sharing its experience and work products.

Item 8. Other Business

The Canadian Competition Bureau has translated approximately six ITOD modules to French.

Item 6: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meeting will be held on May 6, 2018 (Paris).