



**ICN Steering Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 14:00 (CET)**

**Attendees**

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
Barbados Fair Trading Commission  
Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense  
Competition Bureau Canada  
European Commission DG Competition  
Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority  
French Autorité de la concurrence  
German Bundeskartellamt  
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  
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 Chair Andreas Mundt welcomed the Steering Group (SG) members.

The SG approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the SG meeting on 13 January 2016.

The Chair thanked Commissioner Salvatore Rebecchini, who will leave the Italian competition authority at the end of his mandate, for his significant contribution to the work of the ICN and in his leadership role as a SG member.

**Item 2: Town Hall Teleconference Series**

The Chair debriefed the SG on the Town Hall Teleconference series dealing with the interaction of competition policy and other government policies. The first call took place on 3 February 2016. Alejandra Palacios Prieto, President of the Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission, Hardin Ratshisusu, Deputy Commissioner and Head of the

Mergers Division of the Competition Commission of South Africa, and Alex Chisholm, Chief Executive of the UK Competition and Markets Authority, discussed Public Interest Considerations in Merger Cases. The call was well attended by approximately 70 participants and the presentations were followed by a lively debate.

The Chair reminded the SG members that the second Town Hall Teleconference will take place on 8 March 2016 at 2pm CET and it will deal with industrial policy considerations. Francis Kariuki, Director General of the Competition Authority of Kenya, Randolph Tritell, Director of the US FTC's Office of International Affairs, and Henk Don, Member of the Board of the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets, will be speakers.

### Item 3: Second Decade Review

The Chair presented the draft report on the Second Decade Follow-up Survey to members circulated to the SG members ahead of the SG meeting. The report summarizes the responses as provided by the agencies as a basis for an open discussion and further reflection in the SG and at the ICN roundtable on the future of the ICN in its second decade in Washington, D.C. on 5 April 2016 and at the ICN Annual Conference in Singapore on 29 April 2016.

75 ICN members participated in the survey. All geographical regions are well represented. In their replies, the members highlighted the value of the ICN as a key international forum and provided very thoughtful comments for further improvement. Both written work products and interactive products like teleseminars and workshops are considered useful across all working groups. Some agencies suggested that it would be good to also update existing documents rather than creating new products. Several agencies would like more guidance and practical tools for international cooperation and coordination in merger and cartel investigations. They also requested more opportunities for experience sharing. The lack of resources and different time zones hindered some members from becoming more active participants of the ICN. The level of NGA engagement in different jurisdictions is rather diverse: in some countries quite a number of NGAs actively participate, in other jurisdiction NGA participation is more limited. The new topics the SG plans to take on in the future are well reflected in the replies as well as a number of ideas for further discussion.

Many agencies feel that more should be done to encourage active participation of younger agencies, e.g. more products and training targeted at younger agencies and at new staff within the agencies; more translated work product; more financial support to be able to participate more in the ICN; more informal cooperation but also formalized cooperation via "Twinning programmes"; and specific breakout sessions at ICN events such as the annual conferences.

Some agencies suggested that ICN's accessibility to all could be strengthened through more interaction at regional level. The Chair pointed out that the SG will further reflect on the different aspects of interaction at regional level. The SG fully supports cooperation with regional networks, e.g. the African Competition Forum, and welcomes regional input in the global network. At the same time, the ICN will continue to focus on inclusiveness.

A well organized and up-to-date ICN website is considered a very important tool. Implementation could be supported if agencies placed ICN products additionally on their websites.

The Chair informed the SG that the results of the NGA survey will be presented in one of the following SG meetings and a final version of the reports will be presented at the Annual Conference in Singapore for discussion.

#### Item 4: ICN Annual Conference - Implementing lessons learned

The SG invited the ACCC to provide a recap of the feedback received from the 2015 Annual Conference in Sydney, Australia and led a discussion how to best implement the lessons learned at the upcoming 2016 Annual Conference.

Each of the working groups described the state of their planning, the ideas they have and the problems they face in their attempts to achieve diversity in terms of speakers and content in breakout and plenary sessions, to better include topics of interest for younger agencies, and to encourage audience participation.

The Chair thanked the working groups for their efforts and good proposals and offered the support of the SG, where appropriate. The Chair concluded that the working groups' preparations for the Annual Conference in Singapore are well on track.

#### Item 5: update on the 2016 Annual Conference

The Competition Commission of Singapore provided an update on the 2016 Annual Conference.

#### Item 6: Other Business

The Advocacy Working Group (AWG) informed the SG about the host selection for the 2016 Advocacy Workshop. The AWG proposed that the Mexican COFECE as the hosting agency of the next AWG Workshop. The SG welcomed this proposal and thanked COFECE for hosting this important ICN event.

#### Item 7: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meeting will be held on March 16, 2016.