



ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, 19 February 2020, 2pm CEST

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
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 Chair welcomed the Steering Group (SG) members. The SG approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the SG meeting on 22 January 2020.

Item 2: Steering Group Project on Competition, Consumer Protection and Privacy

The SG discussed the SG Project on Competition, Consumer Protection and Privacy. The Chair briefly summarized the status: In January 2020 the SG discussed two scoping papers: One on competition, consumer protection, and privacy, the second scoping paper focused on the competitive impact of the data revolution. The SG decided to combine both papers. After the January SG meeting the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, European Commission DG Competition and the Bundeskartellamt drafted a third scoping paper which deals with competition law enforcement at the intersection between competition, consumer protection, and privacy. The paper includes a new paragraph “Exclusions” which makes clear

that the project focuses on the perspectives of ICN members as competition agencies and does not address issues related to the institutional design of competition agencies. The SG approved the project as described in the third scoping paper. As a next step interested SG members will form a project team and a small group of agencies to lead the project.

Item 3: ICN Annual Conference 2020

The conference hosts presented an update on annual conference planning: The conference website is online, registration is up and running and the working groups are looking for speakers.

Item 4: ICN 2020 work products

The working group Co-chairs presented the status of their projects, events and work products.

The Advocacy Working Group is co-chaired by the Hong Kong Competition Commission, the Norwegian Competition Authority and the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore.

The Co-Chairs presented the following projects and products:

- Webinar on Competition Advocacy Challenges Arising from the Digital Economy
- Note on Approaches to Identify Candidates for Competition Assessment
- Advocacy Workshop 2020/21
- Market Studies Info Store updates

The Agency Effectiveness Working Group's leadership team includes the Canadian Competition Bureau, the Swedish Competition Authority and the Competition Agency of Botswana.

The Co-Chairs presented the following projects and products:

- Webinar on organisational design and digital case teams scheduled for 26 March 2020.
- Chief economist workshop in April in Bergen.

The Cartel Working Group is co-chaired by the Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense, the French Autorité de la concurrence, and the Federal Antimonopoly Service of the Russian Federation.

It comprises two sub-groups:

Subgroup 1, Legal Framework is co-chaired by the Hungarian Competition Authority and the Turkish Competition Authority.

Subgroup 2, Enforcement Techniques is co-chaired by the Netherlands ACM and the Fiscalía Nacional Económica of Chile.

The Co-Chairs presented the following projects and products:

- Project on "Big data and Cartels", Scoping paper: The impact of digitalization in cartel enforcement
- Revision of the leniency guidance
- Series of webinars
- Update of the Anti-Cartel Enforcement Template.

The Merger Working Group leadership consists of the Japan Fair Trade Commission, the United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority and the Spanish Comisión Nacional de la Competencia.

The Co-Chairs presented the following projects and products:

- Conglomerate Mergers
- Procedural Infringements
- Regional seminars on sound decision making

The Unilateral Conduct Working Group is co-chaired by the Italian Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato, the South Africa Competition Commission and European Commission DG Competition.

The Co-Chairs presented the following projects and products:

- Survey for the "Assessment of dominance in the digital era"-project
- Upcoming webinar on vertical restraints.

The "Promotion and Implementation" group (P&I) is co-chaired by Portugal's Autoridade da Concorrência, the Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission, and the US Federal Trade Commission. The group presented plans for the 2020 Annual Conference including an "Implementation Fair"

The Chair and the Steering Group members thanked the working group Co-chairs.

Item 5: ICN Membership

The Membership Working Group, co-chaired by the Korean Fair Trade Commission and the Spanish CNMC informed the SG about the ongoing review of the list of ICN members and brought needed changes to the attention of the SG. Statutory changes to agencies in Philippines and Vietnam necessitate the Membership Working Group adjusting the membership numbers and names to reflect the appropriate current authorities: In Vietnam, the prior Council and Authority have been merged into one authority. In the Philippines, the Bureau of Trade no longer has competition authority – it passed via statute to the Philippines Competition Commission. The new list will reflect these changes.

Furthermore, the Membership Working Group informed the SG about the running application for ICN membership submitted by the Eurasian Economic Commission.

Item 6: Other Business

The ICN Secretariat informed the SG that it will send out a call for expressions of interest to host the 2022 Annual Conference shortly.

Item 9: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meetings will be held on 25 March and 29 April 2020.