



ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 2:00 pm (Berlin)

Attendees

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Barbados Fair Trading Commission
Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense
Competition Bureau Canada
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
Norwegian Competition Authority
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 30 November 2016.

The Chair welcomed Ms. Margarida Matos Rosa, President of the Portuguese Competition Authority.

Item 2: Website

The Change Committee's Website team presented a proposal for the Steering group on how to improve the ICN website. In the proposal, the team set out two options: first, the option of updating the current ICN website as it stands (the website enhancement option), at an approximate cost of \$15,255 CAD (including taxes) - (€ 10,718); second, the option of

developing a brand new website (website design option), at an approximate cost of \$46,443 CAD (including taxes) – (€ 32,623).

The Canadian Competition Bureau that serves as the ICN Secretariat manages the ICN's Special Purpose Account. The Bureau explained that the required funds are available but that Option 2 requires public tendering.

The website team recommended that the SG choose option 2 because of the following reasons: the new website design option would provide the ICN with a new modernized website, with a longer life-span than the website enhancement option. The new website would also be more secure, more flexible and amending it will most likely be easier.

The SG discussed both options and decided to follow the Website Team's proposal. The SG agreed to leave the further arrangements in the hands of the website team members, with regular reports to the ICN Change committee and ICN Steering Group and asked the team to go ahead.

Item 3: 2017 Annual Conference

The Portuguese Competition Authority (PCA) provided an update on the planning of the 2017 ICN Annual Conference. The PCA explained the press policy which is in line with the approach followed in Singapore and Sydney including color-coded badges. The Portuguese Competition Authority then indicated that the Special Project topic will be "Amplifying the impact of enforcement: Proactive strategies for deterrence". Finally, the SG discussed possible plenary speakers. The Chair pointed out that the list of possible speakers circulated ahead of the SG meeting is a work in progress. The Chair highlighted that the working groups might consider two key factors, firstly ensuring lively, interactive and controversial discussions, secondly diversity in terms of geography – including geographic diversity of NGAs - , agency/NGAs and gender. In order to increase diversity and represent the vast membership of the ICN, ideally national member agencies should not provide more than one speaker as long as other heads of agencies are willing to participate. The Chair thanked the Working Group (WG) Co-Chairs for preparing the very helpful overview already at this point in time. As a next step, the WG Co-Chairs will discuss the speakers based on the draft list of possible speakers and the criteria pointed out by the SG members.

Item 4: Work Plans

The Horizontal Coordinator briefly explained the process of establishing the work plans and the timeline. The Horizontal Coordinator asked the WG Co-Chairs to send their short form Plans for 2017-18 by 10 February 2017.

Item 5: Membership

The Membership WG Co-Chairs presented the application for ICN membership of the Catalonian Competition Agency (ACCO) and suggested to the SG not to approve the application based on the analysis laid down in the written proposal circulated to the SG ahead of the SG meeting. The Membership WG pointed out that a distribution of powers between the State and Self-governing Communities/Federal States/Länder is a widespread principle of organisation. The Membership WG Co-Chairs took the view that an in-depth analysis of those structures is neither necessary nor appropriate. The ICN is an international network of competition enforcers and any subnational structures and regional authorities are welcome to provide input and to be involved in ICN work via the national authorities but should not become ICN members as such. The SG followed the recommendation of the Membership WG.

Item 7: Other Business

The JFTC informed the SG that the JFTC is considering a funding contribution to the ICN based on the request from the ICN secretariat. For its internal procedure the JFTC requires an accounting report of the ICN SPA.

Item 8: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meeting will be held on February 22, 2017.