



ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, 5 May 2021, 2:00pm 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
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 17 March 2021.

Item 2: ICN Annual Conference

The 2021 ICN Annual Conference will be hosted by the Hungarian Competition Agency (GVH) and it will take place from 13-15 October 2021 in a virtual format. The change from a hybrid to a virtual event required a new draft agenda taking into account factors such as different time zones, reduced timed sessions, fewer plenary sessions and the option of virtual breakout sessions. The GVH presented a week-at-a-glance document circulated in preparation of the meeting. The traditional younger agencies session, NGA session and the ICN World Bank Advocacy Contest will still be held but not during the virtual conference week.

ICN was launched in New York City on October 25, 2001, and the idea of an additional event to celebrate the 20th ICN anniversary event on 25 October 2021 was discussed.

The Secretariat had circulated a preliminary list of plenary topics in advance of the meeting for information of the SG members.

The Chair informed the SG members, that the BKartA as host of the 2022 ICN annual conference will support the ICN@20 Book project financially. Additional financial support will be provided by NGAs. The book will be presented at the annual conference in Berlin in May 2022.

The SG discussed the proposal for an ICN project to celebrate the 20th birthday of ICN via a compilation of written contributions dealing with the ICN on the ICN website. The SG members supported the proposal.

The Chair updated the SG members on the planning of the 2022 Annual Conference which will take place in Berlin from 3-6 May 2022. It will be organized back-to-back with the BKartA's Berlin Conference, and it will be limited to a maximum of 350 participants. The event will take place at the Steigenberger Hotel (am Hauptbahnhof), opposite Berlin's central station and Federal Chancellery.

Item 3: ICN workshops

The Promotion and Implementation Group (P&I) informed the SG members about a virtual training workshop to be held every Thursday during the month of September 2021.

Item 4: Special Group on Cooperation

Together with the OECD, the ICN drafted a Joint Report on International Enforcement Co-operation, approved by the SG on 2 December 2020. Also in December, the SG established a special project group to consider and co-ordinate next steps building on the joint report. This group is led by Australia CCC, Italy AGCM, Portugal AdC, and US FTC.

The Special Group (group) on Cooperation presented past activities and ideas for future work. The group audited existing work on cooperation, improved the presentation of cooperation work on ICN webpage, and analysed the results from the ICN 3D project. As next steps, the group will engage with the WG co-chairs to explore how cooperation could be incorporated in the draft workplans. Furthermore, the group is in contact with OECD based on the joint ICN / OECD report on co-operation. Finally, the group mentioned that the OECD is in the process of developing a co-operation template which will be presented to the ICN for comments following initial OECD discussions.

Item 5: 3D

The Third Decade team reported on current activities including group calls and presented some preliminary results in the area of ICN participation, work Product and support for types of work (Cross-cutting issues, RPs, Advocacy assistance, International voice).

Item 6: International Cooperation Activities

The UK CMA presented the G7 Digital & Technology track and the ACCC informed SG members about a recent joint statement on merger control enforcement.

Item 7: Other Business

N/A

Item 8: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meetings will take place on 2 June and 7 July 2021.