



ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, 28 October 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
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 23 September 2020.

Item 2: ICN Events 2021

The Chair reminded that due to the pandemic, in-person events will not be possible at least not in the first half of 2021. He summarized the discussion on virtual ICN Events 2021 which took place on 23 September 2020. Suggestions included: pooling resources, sharing technology and logistics, including interactive formats and sessions for agency heads, introducing an ICN Calendar of Events to facilitate coordination and promotion, expanding technology tools to support ICN virtual events, using the ICN website as an information and communications hub, including “2nd Phase” COVID-19 issues, e.g. failing firm defense, cooperation, markets in distress etc., considering ICN as an advocate for competition and as a facilitator of international enforcement cooperation. The Chair noted that the workload of the working groups is already high and that the ICN should carefully strike a balance between

additional attractive virtual events and leaving the working groups with enough energy to continue their important work on written products.

The ICN Secretariat reported that based on the SG input the working group Co-Chairs started to create a coherent package of already planned events such as webinars, and to combine them with additional elements such as town hall calls and heads of agencies sessions organized by the Steering Group. On top there will be interactive workshop elements. The Merger Working Group had planned a workshop in London in spring 2021. Due to the pandemic the MWG Co-chairs are now considering a virtual Merger workshop in April/May. The Merger workshop could become a centrepiece of the ICN Calendar of Events 2021. The P&I – Promotion and Implementation Team (FTC, COFECE, and Portugal) has offered to support the working groups, to organize joint events, or to add interactive formats to the ICN Calendar in spring. The Co-chairs have stated that a full joint virtual workshop would require too much planning, too many additional calls, particularly given that a several projects are already running.

Furthermore, the ICN Secretariat reported on the status of in-person workshops: The Cartel Working Group is not planning a virtual event, but is considering an in-person workshop in Portugal in November 2021. The Unilateral Conduct Working Group (UCWG) will not be able to hold the UCWG workshop in India in March 2021 in person. Instead, UCWG is planning to concentrate on the existing UCWG webinars and insert them into an overall ICN calendar for the first half of 2021. UCWG would hold a next workshop in the ICN year 2021/2022. The Advocacy Working Group is in contact with the Spanish CNMC and the competition agency of Kenya. Timing is still open due to the pandemic. Finally, the Economists workshop is scheduled for summer 2021, here the status is also open.

Item 3: ICN Fall Webinar Series

The working group co-chairs reported on the ICN Fall Webinar Series:

- 22 September 2020: Advocacy Working Group: ICN World Bank Competition Advocacy Contest
- 29 September: Merger Working Group: Procedural Infringements
- 6 October: Cartel Working Group: Horizontal Agreements on Sustainability in a World on Fire
- 13 October: Agency Effectiveness Working Group: Enforcement Priorities in Action: Agency Effectiveness Perspective
- 20 October: ICN Framework for Competition Agency Procedures: Participant Perspectives
- 27 October: Unilateral Conduct Working Group: Dominance/Substantial Market Power in Digital Markets Report

Future Webinars:

- 3 November: Merger Working Group: Sound Decision Making
- 10 November: ICN Training on Demand

The Co-chairs highlighted lessons learned: in a virtual format detailed planning facilitates interactive sessions; a test run helps to avoid technical issues; polling i.e. via Slido worked well and was well received; and questions can be collected via the chat function.

The Chair thanked the Co-chairs and highlighted that some features of the Fall Webinar Series might work as a blueprint for the ICN spring events: coordinated timing, standardized email formats for the invitations, promotion via the ICN website and twitter sharpen the ICN's profile and at the same time relieve the Co-chairs.

The Chair reminded the SG members that the Merger Working Group organized a series of regional webinars on mergers in times of crisis under the leadership of CADE Brazil covering the regions Southern Africa, Asia-Pacific, South America, Middle East and Northern Africa Region, North and Central America, and Europa. The Chair thanked all agencies involved including CADE, South Africa Competition Commission, JFTC, Egyptian Competition Commission, Canada Competition Bureau and CNMC Spain.

Item 4: 3D Project

The 3D project team reported that a questionnaire circulated to the SG members in preparation of the SG meeting will be sent to all ICN members shortly. The team is also in the process of finalizing an adapted questionnaire for NGAs together with the French Authority as ICN/NGA Liaison.

Item 5: OECD and UNCTAD

The UNCTAD Liaison reported on the Eighth United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection which took place in hybrid form in Geneva on 19-23 October 2020. The OECD Liaison provided a preview on the coming OECD week which will start on 30 November 2020. Furthermore, the OECD Liaison reminded the SG members that the SG will discuss and adopt the final version of joint ICN/OECD report on cooperation on 2 December.

Item 6: Other Business

The Chair invited SG members to share ideas for town hall calls or calls for agencies heads only.

Item 7: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meeting will take place on 2 December 2020.