



**ICN Steering Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 15 September 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 7 July 2021.

**Item 2: Welcome to new SG members**

The Chair welcomed two new SG members, Brenda Hernández Ramírez, new interim Chair of COFECE, Mexico, and Alexandre Cordeiro, the new President of CADE Brazil.

**Item 3: Leadership**

**Vice Chair:**

After consultation with the SG, the Chair nominated Rod Sims, Chair of the ACCC, as new Vice Chair. The SG approved the new Vice Chair.

The new Vice Chair presented his future area of focus. As Vice Chair for Digital Co-ordination and Asia-Pacific Liaison he will focus on overarching co-ordination of projects and discussions on competition in the digital economy within the ICN. Additionally, he will support agencies in the Asia-Pacific region facing the challenges of the time zone in their engagement with the ICN.

#### SG membership

According to the Operational Framework, the incoming SG shall be confirmed in odd-numbered years at the Annual Conference. The outgoing SG shall recommend the composition of the incoming SG. The Operational Framework defines a maximum of 21 SG members: 18 elected members plus 3 ex-officio members representing Annual Conference hosts, serving a three-year term. Given that in the next ICN year (2021/22) there will be only one ex-officio member instead of three, the SG decided to follow a flexible approach and to offer the two open slots to the competition authorities of Kenya and Colombia. The Chair pointed out that there is an ongoing overhaul of the Operational Framework as part of the Third Decade project which includes a discussion on the number of SG members as well as on the term “ex officio”.

#### Item 4: ICN Annual Conference

Agenda item 4 was moved to the end of the SG meeting. The conference host, the Hungarian Competition Authority, updated the SG on conference planning. The SG members again thanked the Hungarian agency for hosting the conference.

#### Item 5: Workshops

The Portuguese authority informed the SG that it will host the Cartel Workshop from 17 to 19 November 2021 in Lisbon in a hybrid format.

The Advocacy working group is planning a workshop to be hosted by the Spanish authority in Barcelona from 9 to 11 February 2022.

#### Item 6: Work Products

The Chair presented the status of the 2020/21 ICN work products. Finalized work includes:

- Advocacy Working Group: Report on Competition Compliance
- Agency Effectiveness Working Group: Report on Digitalisation, Innovation and Agency Effectiveness
- Cartel Working Group: Update of three chapters of the Anti-cartel Enforcement Manual on the basis of the Scoping Paper on “The impact of digitalisation in cartel enforcement”: Chapter 3 - Digital Evidence Gathering; Chapter 4 - Cartel Case Initiation; Chapter 5 - Investigative strategy
- ICN Training on Demand video modules: (1) Presenting Information to Decision Makers in Competition Investigations; (2) Encouraging Cartel Reporting; (3) Document Review;

(4) Public Affairs and Media Relations; (5) Relationship Between Competition Agencies and Public Prosecutors

- ICN Framework for Competition Agency Procedures (ICN CAP) Report

The SG members approved the Working Group work products.

Additional work products will be approved after the ICN Annual Conference.

- Agency Effectiveness Working Group: Case Initiation and Prioritisation
- Cartel Working Group: Trends and Developments in Anti-Cartel Enforcement in the Second Decade of the ICN
- Merger Working Group: Report on merger analysis relating to joint ventures and Updated Notification and Procedures Templates – draft report
- Unilateral Conduct Working Group: Assessing Dominance in the Digital Era

### Item 7: Work Plans

The ICN Horizontal Coordinator presented the Interim Report on the work plans for the 2021-22 ICN year which includes four recommendations:

- a) The Steering Group should consider suggesting to Working Groups with large work plans that they reconsider their program given the condensed ICN year and consider potential deferral to the 2022/2023 ICN year.
- b) The Steering Group should consider encouraging Working Groups to explore collaboration where useful, in particular on matters where there is cross-over such as in the area of the digital economy, and international enforcement cooperation.
- c) The short form work plan template should be amended in future to include a prompt for working groups to consider whether there are opportunities to review, and if necessary update, previous work products.
- d) Working Groups should consider whether there are opportunities to promote and implement existing work, and ensure these are identified in the long form work plans finalised after the Annual Conference.

The SG members thanked the Horizontal Coordinator for the report and the Working Group Co-chairs for the ambitious programs and supported the recommendations.

### Item 8: Other Business

The US DOJ Antitrust Division presented current legislative proposals in the US Congress.

### Item 9: Other Business

N/A

Item 9: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meeting will take place on 15 October 2021.