



ICN Steering Group Meeting Wednesday, 2 September 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 8 July 2020.

Item 2: Annual Conference

The Chair thanked the host agencies and working group co-chairs for organizing the 2020 ICN Annual Conference. He highlighted the importance of the sessions for Younger Agencies, NGAs and economists.

The host agencies presented the final setup for the host showcase program with four elements: a keynote by Professor Herbert Hovenkamp, an enforcers panel, member participation via short videos addressing two questions („Is antitrust enforcement equipped to address challenges of the digital economy?“; “From your experience, provide one or two key considerations for agencies and policymakers addressing competition in the digital

economy.”), and learning session videos produced by Professor Christopher Yoo; Penn Law, USA: Innovation and the Digital Economy; Professor Catherine Tucker, MIT Sloan School of Management: Big Data and its Implications; Professor Lesley Chiou, Occidental College: Digital Platforms.

The host agencies explained that the conference will be open to all via a web link, that the plenary sessions will be introduced by 15 minute videos, and that day 4 of the conference will start with a 15 minute session on the Third Decade Initiative.

The host agencies informed the SG that ABA offered the ICN to host a virtual networking reception during the conference week using Remo. Remo can host up to 1000 ICN members and NGAs. It is designed as a purely social event on Tuesday following the conference program at 3:30 CEST. The SG discussed sponsorship of social events by the ABA and the California Bar Association on 18 September 2019. According to the ICN Operational Framework and the 2016 funding guidance for event hosts, sponsorship by bar associations need a case-by-case assessment. In September 2019, no SG member raised concerns. The SG members approved the Remo event.

The Italian Competition Authority and the Merger Working Group Co-chairs presented the first two events which will follow the core conference week:

- 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 CAP: Participant Perspectives
- 27 October: Unilateral Conduct Working Group: Dominance/Substantial Market Power in Digital Markets Report
- 3 November: Merger Working Group: Sound Decision Making

The Hungarian Competition Authority will host the 2021 Annual Conference and informed the SG members that it had decided to reschedule the conference initially planned for April 2021 to 12-15 October 2021.

The Chair reminded the SG members that at the SG meeting on 8 June 2020, the ICN Secretariat informed the SG that three agencies informally expressed interest to host the Annual Conference 2022: UK CMA, Competition Authority of the Sultanate of Oman, and Competition Authority of Uzbekistan. The Chair informed the SG members that meanwhile the CMA has decided not to submit a formal bid to host the conference. Oman and Uzbekistan are considering to submit formal bids with more information, and there might be more

agencies interested in hosting the event. The SG members decided that for the time being it would be premature to discuss what might be realistic in 2022 and postponed this decision.

Item 3: Workshops

The Chair reminded the SG members that the working groups are planning the following events:

- Cartel Workshop in Portugal in Autumn 2021.
- UCWG Workshop in India March 2021.
- AEWG Chief Economist Workshop, Norway, Spring/Summer 2021.
- MWG Workshop in London 2021. No date confirmed yet.
- Advocacy Workshops 2021 and 2022: Spain and Kenya. No dates yet.

The Chair explained that planning is very difficult for the hosts due to the pandemic. All 2020 events have been postponed or made virtual. It is possible that some of the events planned for 2021 will only work as regional workshops or again as virtual meetings.

The Chair raised two questions to be discussed at the SG meeting on 23 September 2020: First: given that in-person events are at the core of ICN and foster personal relationships as a work base, we will need to think of innovative ways to build on when no in-person workshops take place. Second: The lack of in-person events may lead to less attention. The Chair suggested to introduce a new series of virtual events, e.g. interviews with agency heads on hot topics. The Chair also suggested considering revisiting the working group work plans.

Item 4: ICN OECD

Our ICN/OECD Liaison updated the Steering Group on the joint work on cooperation. The team has circulated an impressive draft report and will inform us about the next steps.

Item 5: ICN and COVID-19

Already covered under item 3.

Item 6: Other Business

No other business was reported.

Item 7: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meeting will take place on 23 September 2020.