



ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, 23 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 2 September 2020.

Item 2: Review of the Annual Conference

The Chair and the SG members again thanked the US FTC and DOJ for hosting the virtual 2020 ICN Annual Conference which was considered a great success.

SG members highlighted:

- The opportunities of a virtual or hybrid format which enabled the ICN to reach a wider audience of more than 2500 on the first conference day alone.
- The good technical infrastructure.
- Excellent speakers and discussions.
- Helpful videos produced by the working groups and P&I.

- Room for improvement with regard to new formats adapted to the virtual environment, interaction and networking opportunities.

Item 3: ICN and Covid-19

SG members discussed the ICN's work under the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. SG members noted that during the ICN year 2020/21 travel and workload will remain an issue for many ICN member agencies. Furthermore, ICN member agencies will likely face a rise of COVID-19 related topics and developments concerning internal agency organization and procedures, as well as substantive and even political issues.

The Hungarian Competition Authority, which will host the 2021 ICN Annual Conference, informed the SG that the conference will take place in October 2021, in-person or virtual; it will not be postponed.

SG members brought forward several ideas for consideration:

Annual Conference:

- Hybrid events, integrating complementary virtual aspects with the in-person proceedings: plenary broadcasts, subtitles, recordings, active tweeting, and related virtual pre or post conference programming.
- A variety of plenary session formats and presentation modes (dialogue, interviews, keynotes, lectures, debates) adapted to virtual/hybrid events.
- Work product presentation and promotion via reporting videos posted on ICN website, conference website, and ICN's YouTube channel.

ICN non-annual conference events

- Pooling resources into joint virtual workshops and events as a collaboration among WGs, starting early 2021, periodical events running over a few months.
- Sharing the same technology and logistics, interactive via software platforms that allow discussion/breakouts.
- Network-wide town halls, interviews, update events. Compact (e.g. 45 min), limited number of speakers (e.g. two speakers plus moderator).
- Events for targeted audience: agency heads (closed sessions), economists.
- Project-based events, e.g. on ICN/OECD work on co-operation; Younger Agencies/Mentor Program.
- ICN Calendar of Events to facilitate coordination and promotion.

Interaction:

- New or expanded technology tools to support ICN virtual events (e.g. software or platforms that allow for meetings) financed via ICN account/call for special funding.
- Maintenance of ICN website as information and communications hub.

Priorities and focus:

- “2nd Phase”-COVID-19 issues, e.g. failing firm defense, cooperation, markets in distress etc.

Item 4: ICN OECD

The ICN/OECD Liaison briefly presented the draft ICN/OECD report on co-operation which will be presented to the SG for approval at the December meeting.

Item 5: ICN and COVID-19

The ICN Secretariat and the Agency Effectiveness Working Group presented the updated COVID-19 reference tool.

Item 6: Other Business

No other business was reported.

Item 7: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meeting will take place on 28 October 2020.