



## **ICN Steering Group Meeting Wednesday, 6 November 2024**

### **Attendees**

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense  
Competition Bureau Canada  
Superintendency of Industry and Commerce of Colombia  
Competition Commission of India  
European Commission DG Competition  
French Autorité de la concurrence  
German Bundeskartellamt  
Hong Kong Competition Commission  
Hungarian Gazdasági Versenyhivatal  
Italian Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato  
Japan Fair Trade Commission  
Kenya Competition Authority  
Korea Fair Trade Commission  
Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission  
Philippine Competition Commission  
Portuguese Competition Authority  
Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore  
Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission  
Konkurrensverket Sweden  
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 and the SG members warmly welcomed David Kibet Kemei, Director General of the Competition Authority of Kenya, as a new SG member and thanked Dr Adano Wario Roba for his important contributions to the network.

The SG approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the SG meeting of 9 October 2024.

## Item 2: Working Group Status Reports

The Agency Effectiveness Working Group presented their ongoing work, including the projects Monitoring and Measuring Effectiveness, Effective Training on Competition, Making Enforcement Cooperation Effective and the planned Chief/Senior Economist Workshop.

The Unilateral Conduct Working Group presented, inter alia, the projects Tools in the Context of Abuse of Dominance Proceedings, Following up on Theories of Harm and Remedies in Digital Markets, and Updating the UC Handbook Chapter on Exclusive Dealing.

## Item 3: ICN Secretariat

The Chair informed the SG members that, following a call for expressions of interest circulated by email on 6 September 2024, several agencies had expressed their willingness to contribute to a multi-agency Secretariat team: Australia ACCC, Germany BKartA, Canada CB, Italy AGCM, Singapore CCCS, South Africa CC, UK CMA and US FTC. The SG members discussed a possible structure and possible roles within this wider Secretariat. The selection of the Secretariat by the SG and the handover to the new Secretariat are planned for the SG meeting in January 2025. The Chair reminded the SG members that the Chair selection process as specified in the ICN Operational Framework will be initiated three months before the 2025 Annual Conference. The Chair also reminded the SG members that preliminary expressions of interest are invited for the SG meeting scheduled to take place in December 2024.

## Item 4: Operational Framework

The Operational Framework Working Group updated the SG members on the status of the review process based on three OFWG meetings held in October. The group has completed the review of several sections of the Framework; other sections will require further discussions as well as feedback and input from the SG.

## Item 5: ICN Annual Conference

The UK CMA provided an update on the planning of the 2025 Annual Conference to be held in Edinburgh from 7 to 9 May 2025.

## Item 6: Workshops

The Chair informed the SG members that, following the selection process within the Unilateral Working Group and SG approval, CADE Brazil is planning to host the next Unilateral Conduct Workshop in Rio de Janeiro in March 2025.

The Merger Working Group provided an outline of the workshop to be hosted by the Taiwan FTC from 13 to 15 November 2024.

The Cartel Working Group Co-chairs presented a memorandum assessing the proposals to host the 2025/26 ICN Cartel Workshop. The SG members discussed the memorandum and the general criteria for the selection of ICN event hosts. The SG members asked the Operational

Framework Working Group to provide guidance. The SG also asked the Cartel Working Group to present a proposal at the SG meeting scheduled for December.

#### Item 7: Other Business

The Operational Framework Working Group informed the SG members that a third-party Read AI tool had been used during a group call. The SG decided to continue the discussion on the use of AI tools at ICN meetings and requested the Working Group Co-chairs not to use such tools for the time being or, if their use is intended and considered appropriate in the individual case, to ensure full transparency.

#### Item 8: Future SG Meetings

The next SG meetings will take place on: 4 December (Paris), 15 January, 19 February, April (tbc), 9 May (Edinburgh).