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Chairman ICN Steering Group
President Federal Cartel Office

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Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 17 February, 2016

Dear colleagues,

In our next SG meeting we will focus on two topics: the Second Decade Follow-up Survey to Members and the 2016 Annual Conference in Singapore.

I am very pleased that we have received 75 replies to our Second Decade Follow-up Survey to date from a broad range of agencies. ICN members highlight the value of the ICN as a key international forum and provide very thoughtful input for further improvement. I will present a draft report summarizing the results and main takeaways and am looking forward to discussing the report with you and hearing first comments. The findings can feed into our planning for the next ICN year and we should also aim to take some of the feedback into account for the 2016 Annual Conference. With regard to the equivalent survey to NGAs, we are still receiving replies and will prepare a similar report for discussion in one of our next meetings.

With respect to the second topic of this call, while we are finalizing the agenda for the 2016 Annual Conference, further to the recent input from members mentioned above, I would like to take some time to recall the feedback we received from last year's conference. Every year, we sit together somewhere around the world after the closing speeches, looking back at a successful ICN annual conference. We discuss which sessions worked well, areas of improvement and some of the topics frequently reoccur. Let me highlight issues diagnosed in the past, such as we need to improve speaker diversity both in terms of geographical location and gender in breakout and plenary sessions. Also, when selecting topics we need to acknowledge the different political and economic environments in which agencies operate. Furthermore, we need to increase our focus on younger and smaller jurisdictions and we

need sessions directed to NGAs and their role in supporting the ICN. The format of breakout sessions should encourage audience participation leading to lively debates, for example, by having fewer speakers. Moderators need guidance to facilitate and encourage further interaction. Overall the sessions, including plenary sessions, should give opportunities for controversy and debate. I will invite the Working Group Co-Chairs to present their programs for the conference and explain how they intend to incorporate the feedback taken into account. The Competition Commission of Singapore will provide an update of the planning of the upcoming Annual Conference.

With best regards,

Andreas Mundt