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President Federal Cartel Office

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Note from the Chair for the October 28, 2015 Steering Group Meeting

Dear colleagues,

The Steering Group meeting in Paris constitutes one of the valuable possibilities for face to face discussions. We will continue to look ahead into the future of the ICN. Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity and address or even conclude a number of issues concerning the ICN's Operational Framework and membership. A question we might not be ready to answer but should aim at taking forward concerns the mandate and set-up of the Working Groups. The Competition Commission of Singapore will provide us with an update on the planning of the 2016 Annual Conference.

The future of the ICN in its second decade

In our last Steering Group call in September, we discussed strategies and potential future ICN topics. Meanwhile, I have circulated a message to members which charts the future of the ICN and invites further input. The Second Decade Surveys addressing ICN members as well as NGAs constitute other key elements of this important exercise that will allow us to position the ICN according to the needs of its broad and diverse membership in the second half of this decade. We will start our meeting with a brief update on this topic.

Mandate of the Working Groups

In my message to members, I indicated that topics such as vertical and non-hardcore horizontal restraints are of growing importance in many member jurisdictions. Although - or precisely because - significant divergence might exist in these topical areas, they should be covered by the ICN. The question to discuss is where to best place these topics while keeping a close eye on the capacity of the working groups and the overall workload.

Operational Framework

The Operational Framework Working Group will report on the two topics, (i) ex officio membership of the Steering Group and (ii) financing of ICN events. I am confident that we can conclude the first topic. With regards to financing of ICN events, there might be a need for further consideration.

Membership

The ICN received applications for ICN membership from two regulators which also have certain competition functions. This raises the general question of the requirements for membership based on the Operational Framework and in light of the spirit of the network.

Presence of media at ICN workshops

Inquiries from the media regarding ICN workshops this fall gave reason to discuss the presence of media at ICN workshops in general. We can build on experience gained and solutions successfully applied at previous events to provide guidance.

ICN Annual Conference in Singapore

The Competition Commission of Singapore will provide an update on the planning of the 2016 ICN Annual Conference.

OECD activities

Mr. John Pecman in his capacity as ICN-OECD Liaison will give an update on the activities of the OECD.

Other Business

The African Competition Forum (ACF) will host a workshop on agency effectiveness in Paris on 28 October 2015 and in cooperation with the ICN Agency Effectiveness Working Group intends to organize a regional workshop in Botswana in March 2016.

I look forward to seeing you next week and wish you all a safe journey to Paris.

With best regards,

Andreas Mundt