

Note from the Chair for the December 17, 2014 Steering Group Meeting

Dear colleagues,

In our last Steering Group (SG) Meeting of the year, we will already to some extent lay the foundation for the next ICN year.

I would like to begin the meeting by providing feedback from the discussions held during the Steering Group Meeting in October and the Townhall Meeting. Then, Mr. John Pecman, in his capacity as the ICN-OECD Coordinator will debrief the SG members on the activities of the OCED. Mr. Pecman will also provide SG members with new ideas of continued collaboration and engagement between representatives of both these fora. One of these new ideas, Mr. Pecman will seek SG members' approval to include a new section in the ICN Working Group's work plan template to ensure that Working Groups identify relevant OECD Competition Committee work when presenting their work plans for the upcoming year. This initiative will identify potential areas for joint work early in the planning process. Then, we will discuss the ICN Annual Conference in Sydney next year and the subject of how much sponsorship the ICN wants to allow at Annual Conferences. Then, we will hear from the three Fall Workshops that were held in Taiwan, Mauritius and India.

I would once more like to thank all active participants of the hot topic discussion, which we held at the November Steering Group Meeting. We heard presentations from Netherlands Competition Authority, the Spanish Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia and the United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority. Further interventions were made by the Competition Bureau Canada, the Italian Competition Agency, the French Autorité de la Concurrence, the European Commission, DG Competition and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. All shared their experiences with working either in an integrated authority or in an authority independent from a regulatory body. The matter of concurrent powers was addressed as well as the issue of possible capture. Overall even though all speakers work in different legal and institutional environments, many similarities could be identified. I strongly believe that it was a very interesting discussion. The interventions regarding this discussion have not been detailed as this might have a chilling effect for future open discussions on hot topics. However, giving an abstract of the discussions will be useful while exchanging views on hot topics and the possibility or not for future action.

I would be grateful for your feedback on the concept of hot topic discussion and whether you would be interested to have more of these discussions. If your response is positive, feedback on future topics would be much appreciated.



11 December 2014

Please make sure to arrive 10-15 minutes early to accommodate the OECD security screening. We can then begin the meeting promptly at 8:15 am.

I look forward to seeing you in Paris.

With best regards,

Andreas Mundt