

Note from the Chair for the November 19, 2014 Steering Group Meeting

Dear colleagues,

For this Steering Group Meeting, I welcome all of you to a discussion on a hot topic. The idea for this topic results from the last Steering Group Meeting. In this somewhat new format, we would like to hear from colleagues about their experiences on a topic that is of relevance to all or most of us.

For this first hot topic discussion, we would like to speak about our experiences with the overlap and cooperation between competition authorities and regulators. The issue was raised during our last call when we considered to do some work on regulated sectors. In my view especially the telecom sector is an area that many of us have dealt with either in their capacity as a regulatory body or as a competition authority. With the digital economy gaining importance, this topic will continue to remain of relevance also in the near future. In Europe, this sector even has given rise to a debate whether we need “European Champions”.

In some competition authorities, regulators and competition experts sit side by side. We would like to hear, for example why these responsibilities were brought together, how this works in practice and how you deal with concurrent powers. In which cases would your authority choose to take the regulatory road instead of the competition road? We would also like to hear about their experiences.

The idea is to make use of the unique forum of the Steering Group, which is comprised of heads of agencies from competition authorities around the world. This is an opportunity to freely exchange views on the challenges we face in our work and can establish how the experiences from others can help. We are keen to put the focus on practical experience sharing rather than on the more abstract discussion we expect to see in December at the OECD Roundtable on Institutional Design.

I believe we have never had hot topic discussions in this format, with some colleagues taking the lead. I think that this can provide a good platform to discuss current topics and look forward hopefully to a very lively exchange of views.

To kick off the discussion we will hear from the Netherlands Competition Authority, the Spanish Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia and the United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority; further interventions are welcome to stimulate a lively discussion.



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After the conference call, 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.

I look forward to talking to you next week.

With best regards,

Andreas Mundt