

**ICN Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, October 30, 2013
8:30 am (Paris)**

Attendees

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense
Competition Bureau Canada
European Commission DG Competition
French Autorité de la concurrence
German Bundeskartellamt
Japan Fair Trade Commission
Italian Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato
Korea Fair Trade Commission
Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission
Netherlands Competition Authority
Polish Office of Competition and Consumer Protection
Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service
Comisión nacional de los mercados y la competencia
Turkish Competition Authority
United Kingdom Office of Fair Trading
United States Department of Justice
United States Federal Trade Commission

Swedish Competition Authority
Spanish Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia

The Chair thanked the attendees for their trust and his election to be the Chair of the ICN together with the two Vice-Chairs, Bruno Lasserre and Marques de Carvalho.

The Chair welcomed the new Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission represented by Ms Alejandra Palacios Prieto as a new Member of the Steering Group and the new Spanish Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia, represented by Ms Paola González Sanz.

Item 1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Steering Group approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the September 04 meeting, subject to any comments submitted to the Chair's Office by email.

Item 2. Chair and Vice Chair Presentation

The Chair thanked Mr Philip Collins of the OFT who agreed to continue to be the ICN/ OECD coordinator and Mr Rod Sims for agreeing that the ACCC will continue to act as the ICN Horizontal Coordinator. The JFTC will continue to be in charge of the AIN.

The Chair and the Vice Chairs then presented their draft paper “Moving Forward - Roadmap for 2013-2015”. In this paper they suggest initial ideas how to fulfil the ideas of the Vision Statement on focus, implementation, and inclusiveness with practical ideas.

The Chair believes that some Working Groups are tackling a great number of items at the same time. All Working Groups do this differently, according to the needs of the projects (e.g. some use reports, some Recommended Practises, some Webinars). Nevertheless, looking at all projects there is a danger that Members do not have the resources to follow such a broad scope of work and therefore can miss opportunities to provide input where requested. He encouraged Working Groups to focus on core projects, while not excluding new ones. This would help raising the attention for the projects.

To achieve this, the Chair suggested that in the future the Steering Group should get involved early in the discussion of work plans. He proposed to use the February face to face meeting in Paris to discuss projects and priorities. This meeting would benefit greatly from the fact that all Steering Group members are Working Group Co-Chairs themselves.

Further, the Chair suggested giving work products a higher profile at annual conferences, which would promote use and implementation as well as possibly influence the selection of new work products. He also noted that there were opportunities for ICN members to promote awareness of ICN work product in their own work, including through speeches and interviews.

Vice Chair Bruno Lasserre concentrated his remarks on inclusiveness and member engagement. He suggested that the available resources of the ICN be mobilized to better meet the needs of its growing membership. He presented two initiatives, as described in the paper: the greater engagement trial initiative offers ideas to help volunteering young or less active agencies engage more thoroughly in ICN activities, and the mapping project papers submitted for the meeting. He also suggested that theseeks to make an outreach effort and help overcome the language barrier. The Annual Conference in Marrakech will be a good opportunity for increased participation from agencies whose working language is not English. Some Steering Group members volunteered their resources in translating also ICN documents into other languages.

Vice Chair Vinicius Marques de Carvalho shared ideas about how to address implementation and to help promote convergence in an organisation of strong diversity. A regional approach was discussed to take into account the needs of different regions, including having agencies volunteer to promote specific work products in their region.

The Chair recalled that even though quality assessment is not mentioned in the paper, this was an important topic, and he would look for opportunities to gather ideas about how to best approach this topic.

The Chair asked Steering Group members for their views. The comments were overall very supportive of the Chair's and Vice Chairs' proposals.

In order to keep the Steering Group more involved it was suggested that Working Groups could report to the Steering Group more frequently (e.g. one Working Group per meeting).

The following discussion mainly focussed on the interpretation of the regional approach and the mapping project.

Several agencies volunteered to help with the regional approach for implementation purposes. The JFTC noted that the suggested initiatives fit well with the work of the AIN and AISUP. They will therefore coordinate closely with the Vice Chairs and the Working Groups.

The regional approach as such and (regional and global) workshops were identified to play an important role not only for fostering implementation but also inclusiveness, of member authorities but also NGAs. Overall, it was confirmed that the existing ICN structures should be used and that there was no need to create new ones, neither to enhance inclusiveness nor implementation. In addition, the ICN needs to ensure that its activities complement those of other international organisations rather than duplicate them.

The Chair emphasised that the discussion showed that ICN has to be careful about the meaning of regional approach, which does not mean regionalisation. The ICN's mission is to be a global and virtual organisation, which in small steps can be complemented by some regional elements.

It was mentioned that the mapping project shows similarities to the approach of ICPEN. Their presidency sent invitation letters to new potential members. The next step was to attract these in workshops etc. It proved to be most efficient, when countries with close economic cooperation met and talked to each other.

The Chair and the Vice Chairs informed the Steering Group that they will also talk to the Membership Working Group to see how the Vision Statement and the Roadmap can be implemented further. They will revise the paper to reflect the Steering Group discussion before circulating it to the Membership. Further comments were welcomed by email.

Item 3. Workshops

The Swedish Competition Authority provided a debrief of the 2013 Unilateral Conduct Regional Workshop.

The Italian Competition Authority provided an update of the 2013 Advocacy Workshop, which will be held on December 12-13, 2013 in Rome, Italy.

A debriefing of the 2013 Cartel Workshop in Cape Town will be given at the next Steering Group Meeting.

Item 4. Other business: Topics for future Steering Group meetings

The Chair invited Steering Group members' ideas on future topics for Steering Group meetings. One suggestion would be to discuss vertical restraints with a focus on the internet economy, as it has been a topic at several international conferences. The Chair suggested to reflect how to tackle this subject at the next meeting. It is foreseen that this will be a discussion on how ICN might address this topic, if at all, rather than on substance. Other

suggestions for topics can be proposed on a bilateral basis.

To contact the Chair's Office feel free to get in touch with Ms Barbara Schulze (Head of International Unit), barbara.schulze@bundeskartellamt.bund.de or Ms Shiraz Kutar (International Unit), shiraz.kutar@bundeskartellamt.bund.de.

Item 8. Future Meetings of the Steering Group

The next Steering Group meetings will be held:

- Wednesday, November 20, 2013 (cancelled)
- Wednesday, December 4, 2013
- Wednesday, January 15, 2014
- Wednesday, February 26, 2014 (on the margins of the OECD)
- Wednesday, April 2, 2014
- Wednesday, April 9, 2014

The Chair indicated that the November Meeting might be cancelled.