

## **ICN Steering Group Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 2:00 pm (Bonn)**

### **Attendees**

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
Barbados Fair Trading 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  
Korean Fair Trade Commission  
Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission  
Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets  
Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service  
Turkish Competition Authority  
United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority  
United States Department of Justice  
United States Federal Trade Commission

### **Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

The Steering Group (SG) approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the January 14, 2015 meeting, subject to any comments submitted to the Secretariat by March 27, 2015.

### **Item 2: Annual Conference**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) provided an update on the 2015 Annual Conference. All preparations are going well and the ACCC is looking forward to welcome participants in Sydney. Currently 421 participants from over 70 countries were registered (excluding ACCC staff). The ACCC strongly encouraged participation at the two ICN pre-events. Furthermore, the ACCC pointed out that all social events were within walking distance of the conference venue.

### **Item 3: ICN Working Group work plans**

The Horizontal Coordinator gave an overview of the report on the short versions of the Working Group (WG) work plans. It was mentioned that currently there are three workshops already planned and another two workshops envisaged.

With regard to the number of work products, the Horizontal Coordinator stated that it was in the range of previous years. The Horizontal Coordinator will look at the long versions of the work plans to identify if problematic issues arise.

Following a question by the Chair, AEWG confirmed that their work plan was properly reflected in the report.

One member noted that none of the WGs had envisaged drafting Recommended Practices in the coming year. Furthermore, it requested that implementation should be incorporated into the work plans. Finally, it was suggested that the ICN should also address broader policy issues, e.g. the interface between competition and IP law.

Several members agreed that Recommended Practices are the most prominent type of ICN work product, and also highlighted the practical value of other types of work. The SG agreed to further consider the discussion on policy issues in a future SG meeting. Broader issues could possibly be addressed by having policy discussions in the SG.

The Chair welcomed the practical approach and scope of the work plans. With regard to the Recommended Practices, the Chair advised that all WGs should keep drafting guidance documents like Recommended Practices in mind for the long term planning of work products.

Several members agreed that the overall number of five workshops might require further consideration. Workshops are highly appreciated by participants but also require resources in preparations, travel times and cost. Concerns with regard to inclusiveness might be raised when Workshops are used to take written work products further, as not all agencies might be able to participate. The Chair recommended that all WGs consider once more the need for a Workshop in the upcoming ICN year.

#### Item 4: Second decade follow up survey

The Chair mentioned that a draft document for the second decade follow up survey had been circulated to SG members. Comments by members were welcomed in writing. The survey will be circulated to all participants prior to the upcoming Annual Conference and a drop off box will be offered to deposit the completed surveys in Sydney. Also, the Chair pointed out that he

would like to use the survey as a basis for the discussion in the BOS on the future of the ICN. This session will be co-moderated by John Fingleton.

#### Item 5: UC Workshop

The Turkish Competition Authority informed SG members that the planning for the November UC workshop was going well. Currently, the host was soliciting input from WG members which topics should be addressed at this Workshop.

#### Item 6: Membership WG

The SG approved the application of the Trinidad and Tobago Fair Trading Commission to join the ICN, as it met the criteria to become an ICN member.

#### Item 7: Other Business

The Chair expressed his willingness to continue his engagement as ICN SG Chair for another term. He also thanked both Vice-Chairs for being willing to continue their efforts. The Secretariat will inform the SG on the process.

The Chair further mentioned that work on the WG Chair rotation continued. The Chair's suggestions will be made available to WG Chairs and the SG for approval.

The Secretariat informed the SG that only one expression of interest to host the ICN 2017 Annual Conference was received. The application fulfilled all criteria outlined in Section 8 of the Operational Framework, as such this member agency was chosen to host the 2017 ICN Annual Conference. The Chair will announce the host agency of the 2017 Annual Conference at the upcoming Annual Conference.

Finally, the Secretariat began to discuss the possibility of discontinuing the conference reports. It should be noted that the last one was published for the 2009 Annual Conference. Given time constraints of this conference call, the Chair suggested to continue the discussion during the next SG meeting.

#### Item 8: Future Meetings of the Steering Group

The next SG meeting will be held on April 8, 2015.