

ICN Steering Group Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 2:00 pm (Bonn)

Attendees

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Barbados Fair Trading Commission
Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense
Competition Bureau Canada
Competition Commission of South Africa
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 April 8, 2015 meeting, subject to any comments submitted to the Secretariat by April 24, 2015.

Item 2: Annual Conference

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) provided a final update on the 2015 Annual Conference (2015 Conference). The ACCC noted that 457 participants from over 70 jurisdictions had registered. Together with the ACCC delegates, about 500 participants are expected to attend the conference. The final eZine providing information about the 2015 Conference will be sent later this week.

The ACCC further gave an update on the Special Project. A summary of the final report was given, which was later put forward for SG approval as an ACCC work product.

Item 3: Approval of Work Products

The SG approved the following work products for presentation at the 2015 Conference:

Advocacy WG

- Creation of a web-based toolbox

Cartel WG

- Chapter on Relationships between Competition Agencies and Public Procurement Bodies

Special Project Report

- Online Vertical Restraints

Item 4: Policy Issue discussion

The Chair led a brief discussion whether and in which way the SG could address policy issues in the coming ICN year. The Chair suggested that different topics might call for different formats and solicited SG member's reaction to further the procedure.

SG members agreed that this issue needed further discussion. The SG agreed to have this discussion at the June SG meeting in Paris. There the SG would talk about different topics and how these could be worked upon in the ICN. First ideas included having a call series, Heads of Agency Townhall meetings, or suggesting certain topics to the WGs for inclusion in their further work. A decision among SG members regarding this discussion will then be taken in fall 2015.

Item 5: Recommended Practices discussion

The Chair invited SG members to comment on how it can be ensured that the Working Groups aim at drafting Recommended Practices and the promotion thereof in their long term work plans.

SG members assured the Chair that the WGs were very conscious about the benefit of drafting Recommended Practices but also pointed out the value of other types of work. It was also mentioned that having ICN guidance, no matter what title it had, was regarded as very beneficial especially by young competition authorities. The Chair concluded that Working Groups regularly consider which work products might lead to the development of Recommended Practices.

Item 6: Working Group Chair Rotation

The Chair asked for Steering Group members to approve the new WG Chairs as described in the WG Chair Rotation overview. The Steering Group endorsed the Rotation and thanked those ICN members who were stepping down as WG Chairs for their contributions to their respective Working Groups.

Item 7 and 8: Steering Group Member Rotation and Other business

The ICN Secretariat (Secretariat) reported on applications for Steering Group membership for the 2015 – 2017 term and the process for chair selection. In accordance with the ICN's Operational Framework, the maximum number of elected Steering Group members is 18, plus at least 3 ex officio conference host members.

In February 2015, the Secretariat emailed ICN members about their interest in serving on the ICN Steering Group. The Secretariat received expressions of interest from the following ICN members:

- 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

- Federal Antimonopoly Service of Russian Federation
- Competition Commission of South Africa
- Turkish Competition Authority
- United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority
- United States Department of Justice
- United States Federal Trade Commission

Given that there were no new candidates the current slate of SG members were confirmed for the 2015-17 term.

Item 9: Future Meetings of the Steering Group

The next SG meeting will be held on May 1, 2015 in Sydney.