

ICN 2020/2021 Kickoff Call

June 18, 2020



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Agenda

Welcome

Working Group Presentations

- Agency Effectiveness: Ruta Baltuonyte (Sweden)
- Advocacy: Mathew Wong (Hong Kong)
- Mergers: Eleni Gouliou (UK)
- Unilateral Conduct: Philipp Gasparon (EC)
- Cartels: Alessandra Tonazzi (Italy)
- Promotion & Implementation: Paul O'Brien (USFTC) and Paulina Valladares (COFECE)

Steering Group Projects

- NGA Toolkit: Marianne Faessel (France)
- Covid 19 Nigel Caesar (Canada)
- Third Decade Paul O'Brien (USFTC)
- Comp/Consumer/Privacy Scott Rogers (ACCC)
- ICN Framework on Competition Agency Procedures "CAP" Billy Brine (ACCC)

ICN Annual Conferences – 2020 and 2021

- Michelle Rindone (USDOJ)
- József Sarai (Hungary)



Working Group Presentations



International Competition Network

All Competition, All the Time

About the Agency Effectiveness Working Group

Mission: To identify key elements of an effective and efficient competition agency and develop best practices for agency strategy, planning, operations, investigative tools and procedures.

- https://www.internationalcompetitionnetwork.org/workinggroups/agency-effectiveness/
- Competition Authority of Botswana Baitshepi.Tebogo@competitionauthority.co.bw
- Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore Yvette_YOONG@cccs.gov.sg, Raymond_NG@cccs.gov.sg
- Swedish Competition Authority Graeme.Jarvie@kkv.se, Ruta.Baltuonyte@kkv.se

New Work Products 2019-2020 As a follow-up to the Report on Agency Effectiveness through Organisational Design, the AEWG held a webinar Organisational Design and to provide a forum for competition agencies to share their experiences when shaping their organisation to meet Digitalisation the new challenges brought about by digitalisation. The webinar also contributed to scoping future work on digitalisation from an agency effectiveness perspective. The AEWG has been responsible for the updating of an unofficial reference tool for ICN member agencies to COVID-19 reference tool raise awareness of some of the COVID-19 related policies being implemented by international counterparts. Get involved with the Working Group Projects 2020-2021 Building on AEWG work to date on organisational design, this project will explore different strategies used by competition agencies when preparing themselves to face the new demands of the transition to the digital Digitalisation, innovation and Agency economy. Beyond questions of organisational design, the project may look at investigative tools for the digital age, while also touching on previous AEWG topics such as recruitment, staff training and knowledge **Effectiveness** management in order to get a holistic picture of how digitalisation and innovation impacts competition agency effectiveness. This new project will look into how early case prioritisation and management can contribute to effective and Case initiation and Prioritisation efficient enforcement. It will examine competition agency practice in handling complaints, weighing up different enforcement priorities, testing early case theories as well as initiating formal investigations. Holding an Economist Workshop as well as a series of teleseminars with the aim of providing space for The Role of Chief/Senior Economists discussion about economic analysis and the critical role it plays in competition investigations, enforcement, policy and advocacy work. for Effective Enforcement The AEWG will continue to update an unofficial reference tool for ICN member agencies to raise awareness of COVID-19 reference tool some of the COVID-19 related policies being implemented by international counterparts.



Advocacy Working Group

Mission

To improve the effectiveness of ICN members' advocacy activities in advancing the adoption of competition principles in government and promoting the development of a competition culture within society through the development of practical tools and guidance, and the facilitation of experience sharing among ICN member agencies.

2020-21 Co-chairs

Colombian Superintendence of Industry and Commerce

- Juan Pablo Herrera jpherrera@sic.gov.co
- Cristina Rodriguez Corzo crodriguezco@sic.gov.co
- María Manuela <u>c.mpalacio@sic.gov.co</u>

Hong Kong Competition Commission

- Matthew Wong matthewwong@compcomm.hk
- Michelle Zang <u>michellezang@compcomm.hk</u>

Norwegian Competition Authority

Kjell J. Sunnevåg kjsu@kt.no









Advocacy Working Group

2019-20 Work Products

Market Studies Information Store

- Updated the Market Studies Information Store with some of digital economy-related market studies
- Webinar Pairing-up: leveraging external resources for market study, Dec 2019

Advocacy and Digital Markets Project

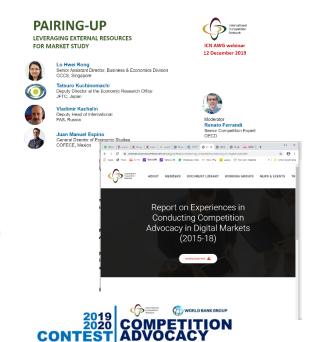
- Identified experiences of competition agencies' advocacy efforts in digital markets collected in 2018-19 which can be integrated into the ICN Advocacy Toolkit.
- Webinar Advocacy and digital markets, Mar 2020

Competition Assessment Project

- Focused on innovative approaches to ex officio identification of candidates for competition assessment.
- Drafted a report on approaches to identify candidates for competition assessment

ICN – World Bank Competition Advocacy Contest

- 7th edition of the Contest to showcase successful stories of advocacy across the world.
- Theme: "Competition as a tool to reap the benefits and mitigate the costs of the new economy: jobs, industry and data"
- Virtual award ceremony + sharing session in late September



Competition as a tool to reap the benefits and mitigate the costs of the

The International Competition Network (ICN) and the World Bank Group are

Contest. This contest aims to highlight the key role competition agencies, sector regulators and other governmental bodies or non-governmental organizations play in promoting competition by showcasing their advocacy

new economy: Jobs, industry and data

success stories



Advocacy Working Group

Get involved with the AWG Projects in 2020-21

Competition Advocacy in Times of Crisis

- To facilitate the discussion among Members Agencies and NGAs on the advocacy actions during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak
- To collate agencies' advocacy efforts in response to the public health crisis

Update of the ICN Advocacy Toolkit

- Focus on reviewing the components/steps for effective advocacy projects in the Toolkit to ensure they are relevant for competition agencies' current operating environment
- To refresh the case studies in the Toolkit with recent examples

Approaches to Identify Policies for Competition Assessment:

- A (draft) addition to the AWG Handbook on "Approaches to Identify Policies for Competition assessment" was circulated among AWG member in Mar-Apr 2020
- To be presented in a BOS at the 2020 Annual Conference, and finished for approval by the SG later in 2020
- To collate Member Agencies' as well as businesses' efforts in promoting competition compliance via a WG-wide survey
- Building Compliance Program and Culture
- To garner NGAs' valuable insights on how compliance culture/ program could be best planted and fostered within a business



2020-21 Advocacy Workshop (planning in progress)

The biennial Advocacy Workshop is expected to be hold in 2021 Q4. AWG Co-chairs have started the host selection process.



International Competition Network

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About the Advocacy Working Group

Mission: To improve the effectiveness of ICN members' advocacy activities in advancing the adoption of competition principles in government and promoting the development of a competition culture within society through the development of practical tools and guidance, and the facilitation of experience sharing among ICN member agencies.

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- $\ \square$ Hong Kong Competition Commission matthewwong@compcomm.hk; michellezang@compcomm.hk
- Norwegian Competition Authority kjsu@kt.no

The AWG updated the Market Studies Information Store and via a teleseminar promoted implementation

New Advocacy Work Products 2019-2020 [Available online]

Market Studies information Store	initiatives on high-level guiding principles in selecting and conducting market studies and the 2016 Market Studies Good Practice Handbook.		
Advocacy and Digital Markets Project	The AWG identified experiences of competition agencies' advocacy efforts in digital markets collected in 2018- 19 which can be integrated into the ICN Advocacy Toolkit.		
Teleseminars	Advocacy and digital markets; competition assessment; working with external parties when conducting market studies.		
2019-2020 Competition Advocacy Contest	The World Bank Group and the AWG in cooperation with the Italian Competition Authority have organised a rocacy joint edition of the Contest to showcase successful stories of advocacy across the world. The winning stories be featured in a joint publication. This theme of this year is "Competition as a tool to reap the benefits and mitigate the costs of the new economy: Jobs, industry and data".		
et involved with Advocacy Working G	roup Projects 2020 - 2021		
Competition Advocacy in Times of Crisis	This project aims to facilitate the Member Agencies' discussion of their recent advocacy actions during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak. Via a WG-wide survey, the project will collate agencies' advocacy efforts in response to the public health crisis.		
Update of the ICN Advocacy Toolkit	This multi-year project will focus on reviewing the components/steps for effective advocacy projects in the ICN Advocacy Toolkit to ensure they are relevant for competition agencies' current operating environment, and to refresh the case studies in the Toolkit with recent examples.		
Approaches to Identify Policies for Competition Assessment	The AWG has prepared a new (draft) addition to the AWG Handbook on "Approaches to Identify Policies for Competition assessment". This addition builds on with new and updated OECD material on competition assessment, synthesizes members' input and complements previous work by the AWG on Competition assessment. The draft report has been circulated among AWG member in March-April, will be presented in a BOS at the 2020 Annual Conference, and finished for approval by the SG later in 2020.		
Building Compliance Program and Culture	This project aims to promote the exchange of competition agencies' experiences in assisting businesses in building compliance programs and culture. There will be sessions in a forthcoming webinar and at the Advocacy Workshop, allowing Member Agencies and NGAs to hold in-depth discussions on the subject matter.		
2020-21 Advocacy Workshop (planning in progress)	The biennial Advocacy Workshop is expected to be hold in the third or fourth quarter of 2021. AWG Co-chairs have already commenced the host selection process.		

International Competition Network

New Work Products 2019-2020

Conglomerate Mergers	Comparative and informational report on conglomerate merger theories and case studies, based on survey and webinars on the topic.
Procedural Infringements	Comparative and informational report on procedural infringements, including failure to file, gun jumping, request for information compliance and remedy violations, based on a survey on the topic.
Digital Mergers	Global webinar series on digital mergers.
Sound decision making	Regional webinar series on the subject of sound decision-making, covering topics such as evidence based decision-making, transparency, independence and anti-bribery, followed by a comparative report of the outcome of the project.
Merger Workshop 2020	February 2020 ICN Merger Workshop in Melbourne, Australia, on "Achieving the right balance: How competition authorities are approaching merger control and remedies in the changing market environment".

Get involved with the Working Group Projects 2020 - 2021

Conglomerate Mergers	Comparative and informational report based on the survey exploring conglomerate merger theories and case studies (continued from 2019-2020). Scheduled to complete in summer / autumn 2020.
Procedural Infringements	Comparative and informational report based on the survey on procedural infringements, including failure to file, gun-jumping, request for information compliance and remedy violations (continued from 2019-2020). Scheduled to complete in summer / autumn 2020.
Joint Ventures	Comparative and informational report on merger analysis relating to Joint Ventures, based on survey on the topic. Scheduled to commence in autumn / winter 2020.
Merger review in times of uncertainty/under Covid 19	Series of regional webinars exploring issues arising from the the COVID-19 crisis.
ICN Merger Workshop 2021	2021 Merger Workshop. Location, date, topic and format to be confirmed.
Future Projects 2020-2021	Additional future projects to be confirmed.



Unilateral Conduct Working Group 2020/2021

- Assessing Dominance in Digital Era further deepening of specific topics
- Webinars e.g. topics related to the "Assessing dominance in digital era" project, enforcement in the pharmaceutical sector, abuse of dominance in regulated sectors and abuse of superior bargaining position in the digital age.
- UC Workshop 2020-2021 plan: in India in spring 2021.
- In view of the Covid-19 crisis in Workshop and/or Webinars:
 "How does the Covid-19 crisis affect the assessment of unilateral conduct".
- Co-chair contacts:
 - South Africa Competition Commission Khalirendwer@compcom.co.za, NonkululekoM@compcom.co.za
 - European Commission DG COMP COMP-ICN@ec.europa.eu
 - Japan Fair Trade Commission icn@jftc.go.jp



International Competition Network

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About the Unilateral Conduct Working Group

Mission: To examine the challenges involved in analysing unilateral conduct of dominant firms and firms with substantial market power, facilitate greater understanding of the issues involved in analysing unilateral conduct, and promote convergence and sound enforcement of laws governing unilateral conduct.

https:/	/www.internationalcom	petitionnetwork.org	/working-
groups/unilateral-conduct/			

- ☐ Co-chairs:
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- South Africa Competition Commission -Khalirendwer@compcom.co.za, NonkululekoM@compcom.co.za
- ☐ Japan Fair Trade Commission icn@iftc.go.ip

New Work Products 2019-2020

This multi-year project was started with a survey seeking to ascertain whether:

The experience of the ICN members suggests that the assessment of dominance/substantial market power in digital markets requires consideration of factors different from those guiding the assessment of dominance/substantial market power in non-digital markets and/or whether the same factors have different importance in digital markets; and

Assessing Dominance in Digital Era

ICN members wish to have specific ICN guidance assessment of dominance/substantial market power in digital markets or consider that existing ICN documents can be revised to provide more detailed

The survey was addressed to competition authorities - members of the ICN - and their NGAs. A first analysis of the replies will be available for after the summer 2020.

COFECE of Mexico hosted the 8th ICN Unilateral Conduct Workshop in Mexico City on 14-15 November 2019.

UC Workshop 2019

Weblnars

- Recent developments in market definition and market power of digital platform markets
- Tying: recent theory and practice in digital markets
- Website: https://www.cofece.mx/uc-workshop2019/

- Dominance assessment in two-sided platforms (two webinars were held on this topic)
- Vertical restraints an exploration of remedies and addressing market harm in the digital era

Get involved with the Working Group Projects 2020-2021

Assessing Dominance in Digital Era

The ongoing initial survey results will allow to appraise whether some specific aspects relating to the assessment of dominance/substantial market power in digital markets will have to be further deepened in the course of 2020/2021 and whether specific ICN guidance is needed.

UC Workshop 2020-2021

It is planned that Competition Commission of India will host the 9th edition of the ICN Unilateral Conduct Workshop in New Delhi in March 2021.

Webinar Series

Want to know more

The Working Group will hold at least three webinars on issues of mutual interest, e.g. topics related to the "Assessing dominance in digital era" project, enforcement in the pharmaceutical sector, abuse of dominance in regulated sectors and to the Covid-19 crisis.

about the ICN?

Sign up to the ICN newsletter here

- □ ICN Website international competition network.org
- ICN Chair's Office icn-chair@bundeskartellamt.bund.de
- ICN Secretariat ic.icnsecretariatcb-bc.ic@canada.ca



CWG - Highlights from the past ICN year

- Big Data and Cartel
 - Approved in May a <u>Scoping Paper</u> which identifies the challenges raised by Big data and algorithms in cartel enforcement: as a vehicle for collusion (part 1) and as a tool for cartel detection (part 2)
 - In 2020-2021, the CWG will consider revising and / or updating one or more chapters of the Anti-cartel enforcement manual on "Digital evidence gathering" or "Investigative strategy"
 - Opportunity to be involved: joining drafting teams or providing comments to draft documents
- Guidance on Enhancing Cross-Border Leniency Cooperation:
 - [to be approved in July] covers topics, such as communications between agencies, coordinating joint interviews as well as provides practical tips for managing confidentiality waivers



CWG - What to look forward to in the new ICN year

- New project on Covid-19
 - Horizontal cooperation agreements: what has been the experience of agencies in assessing them? which sectors? which tools (e.g., formal or informal guidance)? Which challenges?
 - Crisis cartels: How will agencies assess crisis claims in cartel investigations?
 What pressures will they face?
- 2020-2021 activity: stocktaking exercise of relevant past work of the CWG and other international organizations, input gathering from ICN members, and organization of a couple of webinars
- How to get involved: opportunity to share experiences in ad-hoc webinars



CWG - What to look forward to in the new ICN year

- Project on Trends and developments in cartel enforcement in the second decade of the ICN
 - Opportunity to contribute via a call for input
- Webinar series
 - topics: leniency, damage claims, bidding cartels, compliance, hub & spoke cartels
- Cartel Workshop in Fall 2021



About the Cartel Working Group

- Webpage: <u>internationalcompetitionnetwork.org/working-groups/cartel/</u>
- Co-chairs:
 - Russian Federal Anti-Monopoly Service (FAS) international@fas.gov.ru
 - French Autorité de la Concurrence international@autoritedelaconcurrence.fr
 - Italian Competition Authority AGCM Alessandra. Tonazzi@agcm.it, andrea.minutorizzo@agcm.it, michele.pacillo@agcm.it
- Subgroup 1 Legal Framework (SG1): Policy-level issues of hardcore cartel conduct
 co-chaired by competition authorities of Hungary and Turkey
- Subgroup 2 Enforcement Techniques (SG2): Investigative techniques co-chaired by competition authorities of Chile and The Netherlands



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About the Cartel Working Group

Mission: To address the challenges of anti-cartel enforcement, including the prevention, detection, investigation and punishment of cartel conduct, both domestically and internationally, across the entire range of ICN members with differing levels of experience and

Subgroup 1 - Legal Framework (SG1): Policy-level issues of hardcore cartel conduct

Subgroup 2 - Enforcement Techniques (SG2): Investigative techniques

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New Work Products 2019-2020 [Available online]

Enhancing coordination on leniency matters

As a follow-up of the work on incentivising leniency applications, a guidance document was created to assist agencies in coordinating with one another in the case of joint leniency application across multiple jurisdictions. The guidance document covers topics such as communications between agencies, coordinating joint interviews, and practical tips for managing confidentiality waivers.

Webinars / call series on selected topics

Webinars on: Leniency: Good Practices and Lessons Learnt; Damages Claims in Cartel Cases; How to Detect and Assess Bidding Cartels; Information Sharing: Boundary between Explicit and Tacit Collusion; and Use of Presumptions in Establishing Existence of and Participation in Cartels

Some of these webinars were held at Asia-Pacific friendly times to accommodate increased attendance.

2019 Cartel Workshop Brazil

Held in October 2019, with the theme of "Cartels in the Age of Data-Driven Economy", the workshop saw competition agencies and NGAs from around the globe gathered to discuss topics such as the delineation of cartel activities in a changing business environment; challenges and information management for data-driven markets; antitrust liability for software-based infringements; intelligence and screening tools; and, effective leniency and evidence assessment in the digital era.

Framework for Information Exchange "ICN Liaison"

In line with its 2015 initiative to promote the sharing of non-confidential information, SG2 continued to:

- Maintain and encourage use of the framework's 'request procedure' document to ensure both the requestor and requestee understand expectations and the type of information that can be requested using this framework.
- Maintain the database of current contact officers for participating agencies.
- Encourage the sharing of experience in using the framework to help support its implementation by demonstrating its benefits to the

Anti-Cartel Enforcement Templates

Started in late 2015, the SG2 Co-Chairs continued the project to update the Anti-Cartel Enforcement Template. Currently 39 templates are uploaded on the ICN website. In 2019-2020, SG1 supplemented the questionnaire with a new chapter on private enforcement and launched a new round of update / completion of the template.

Get involved with the Working Group Projects 2020 - 2021

New Project on ICN Member Survey on Trends and Developments in Anti-Cartel Enforcement in the Second Decade on the ICN (2020-2021).

Sub-Group 1 - Legal Framework

- New Project on Crisis Cartels and Horizontal Cooperation in the Time of COVID-19.
- Webinars/call series on: (i) Leniency perspectives from the private bar; (ii) Damages Claims in Cartel Cases II; (iii) How to Detect and Assess Bidding Cartels II; (iv) Hub-and-spoke cartel cases; and (v) Compliance II, (vi) Crisis Cartels and Horizontal Cooperation in the Time of COVID-19, including the continuation of some of these in the form of Asia Pacific friendly calls.
- 2020 Cartel Workshop (Portugal) dates to be determined subject to pandemic situation.

Sub-Group 2 - Enforcement **Techniques**

- Project on big data and cartels: the impact of digitalization on cartel enforcement
- Implementation of previous projects: SG 2 will continue to (i) maintain and encourage use of the ICN framework for the promotion of the sharing of non-confidential information, and (ii) update and promote the Anti-Cartel Enforcement Templates.

ICN Bridging Project

What is the Bridging Project?

Pilot partnering program to bring together Young and Small Agencies (YSAs) with Steering Group Members (SGMs)

To identify opportunities for a YSAs greater participation and contribution in all other ICN products

Launched in December 2019

Vice-Chair for Young Agencies and Regional Diversity in coordination with the ICN's Promotion and Implementation (P&I) group

Based on voluntary basis and subject to available resources of the partners

How it works?

- A partnership between a YSA and SGM will be established
- The YSA will identify its concerns and needs, and in coordination with the SGM, will define realistic goals, clear expectations, and priorities for the partnership
- The SGMs will assist the YSAs to engage into ICN activities
- The SGM will be a liaison, when needed, between the YSA and ICN Working Groups and teams' co-chairs
- YSA will take responsibility for and commit to its own development

Expected outcome

YSAs in taking a **LEAP** forward regarding their involvement in the ICN

- Leadership: Proactively engage in ICN initiatives, projects and events. Take the initiative and play a more important role within the network
- Engagement: Be present but also be heard. Know and learn the multiple ways your agency can engage with the ICN
- Advancement: All voices matter and need to be heard
 - Participation: Contribute, share your thoughts, get involved in all ICN activities

More information: Mexico's COFECE, Portugal's AdC and the US FTC



www.internationalcompetitionnetwork.org/training













On Screens this Summer: Building Regional Relationships Among Competition Agencies

Public Interest Considerations in Competition Law



Questions



Steering Group Projects



Competition law enforcement at the intersection between competition, consumer protection and privacy

- or - the "Intersection" project

- Project leaders:
 - Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)
 - Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato (AGCM)
 - Competition Bureau Canada (CBC)
- Background to the project
- Outline of the project



Project tasks

- Task 1: Research and background (AGCM)
 - Identification of the main issues involved, with the assistance of volunteer agencies.
- Task 2: Member input (ACCC)
 - Request for input from all ICN members, in the form of real-world cases and experiences relevant to the project. Template to be sent to members.
 - Project leaders to compile and analyse the data, prepare a report in consultation with volunteers
- Task 3: Discussion events (CBC)
 - Webinars to provoke discussion and debate on the issues. Will involve the perspectives of experts and NGAs.



Timing and next steps

Task 1

- Volunteers provided input, drafting of issues identification paper commenced.
- Draft paper for discussion with volunteers to be circulated.

• Task 2

- Template will shortly be circulated to members, for completion by early August 2020.
- Following analysis, a report on members' input will be presented to the Steering Group later in 2020.

Task 3

First Webinar on 22 June, moderated by William Kovacic, speakers include:
 Mr. Helge Blyberg, Ms. Michal Gal, Ms. Inge Graef, Ms. Orla Lynskey and
 Ms. Catherine Tucker.



ICN Annual Conferences