

## **Note from the Chair for the June 18, 2014 Steering Group Meeting**

Dear colleagues,

This is our first meeting after the ICN annual conference in Marrakech. I look forward to working with all of you in this new ICN year. To allow the working groups to get started as soon as possible, our first task will be to conclude our discussion on the work planned for this year.

### Work plans

Therefore, we will hear from the Horizontal Coordinator about the final report on the work plans. The work plans and summary report will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

One of the issues requesting further consideration might be the number of envisaged workshops for this year. While we all agree on the importance and benefits of workshops for implementation purposes, I also see that this has implications for resources (staff or financial resources) in a context where many of us face serious budget constraints. These workshops will place a financial burden on the ICN Specified Purpose Account, which funds eligible members to attend these events. Furthermore, due to the usual timing of the ICN year, I understand that majority of the workshops would occur in a rather short time period.

I would therefore like to follow up on an earlier discussion we had whether we should reconsider as an example, not having more than three workshops a year and whether we want to determine a process for planning workshops a bit further ahead. Against this background I would be interested to hear from Working Groups how far the planning for this year's Workshops has already proceeded. Also I would again like to hear your views on holding biannual workshops.

### Implementation

Vice Chair Vinicius Marques de Carvalho will provide a brief update following the discussion at the 2014 Marrakech Annual Conference ("2014 Conference") regarding implementation in the ICN. At that time, during the implementation plenary session, he presented a proposal for framing the implementation initiatives of the ICN. In this sense, implementation could be addressed by an umbrella approach focused on three dimensions: (i) access to ICN's work products; (ii) implementation at the WG level; and (iii) implementation through technical assistance.

### Involvement of International Organisations

Following our initial discussion at the 2014 Conference on the possibilities to involve International Organisations, I suggest that we aim to follow a uniform approach that applies to the involvement of all international organisations in the future. According to paragraph 5 of the Operational Framework, "*The Steering Group may invite these or other international bodies working in the field of competition law and policy to designate representatives to contribute to ICN activity.*" I therefore propose that the Steering Group should deal with incoming requests of

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international organizations to participate in ICN work and invite them on a case-by-case basis for certain or all areas of interest where appropriate.

Also, at the margins of the ICN pre-event in Marrakech, the World Bank reached out to me to discuss future possibilities for a cooperation of our two organisations. I would like to report back to you on some of their initial ideas.

#### 2015 Annual Conference

The ACCC will provide a first update on the conference planning. The 2015 Annual Conference will be held in Sydney on April 28- May 1, 2015.

#### Dates for the 2016 ICN Annual Conference

The colleagues from Singapore are looking to securing the date and venue for the 2016 Annual Conference and will request for approval of one date. The proposed dates are 26-29 April 2016 (Tues: Pre-ICN, Wed-Fri: ICN) or 24-27 May 2016 (Tues: Pre-ICN, Wed-Fri: ICN). Please inform the ICN secretariat by email by Monday June 23, 2014 which date you prefer.

#### Other Business

I will debrief the Steering Group regarding a request from the Turkish Cypriot Competition Board.

I look forward to seeing you in Paris.

With best regards,

Andreas Mundt