

## **THE WELCOME TRACK**

### **-- GETTING NEW AND NON-ACTIVE ICN MEMBERS ENGAGED --**

#### **1. WHAT IS THE ICN?**

Launched on October 25, 2001 by antitrust officials from 14 jurisdictions, the International Competition Network (ICN) is a specialized yet informal network of national and multinational competition agencies worldwide. The objective of the ICN is to address practical antitrust enforcement and policy issues with a view to build convergence towards sound competition policy principles across the global antitrust community.

The ICN is guided by a Steering Group composed of representatives of ICN members. While it is primarily a network of competition authorities, the ICN seeks to reach out to the entire antitrust community and also relies on the engagement of Non-Governmental Advisors (“NGAs” - Please refer to the **NGA Toolkit** [in hyperlink]).

#### **How does the ICN work?**

Members and NGAs work together on projects in topic-specific working groups via email correspondence, conference calls, teleseminars and webinars. Annual conferences and Working Groups’ workshops provide opportunities to discuss Working Groups’ projects. ICN members decide for themselves whether and how to implement recommendations and good practices arising from the projects. The ICN does not exercise any rule-making function, and operates by consensus.

#### **What is the value of joining the ICN?**

The ICN is a unique forum for experience sharing and networking, which are among the most cited benefits of ICN membership. Being a member of the ICN and part of the international antitrust community will help you get familiar with international good practices, and will support your agency in building sound competition policies and practices. Members undergoing domestic reforms can also

request the assistance of the ICN. By enhancing convergence and cooperation, the ICN promotes more efficient and effective antitrust enforcement worldwide to the benefit of consumers and businesses. For more information about the ICN, including answers to frequently asked questions, see [The ICN Factsheet and Key Messages](#) [in hyperlink].

### **Why is it a good thing for the ICN to have new members and more active members?**

The ICN was founded on principles of inclusiveness and openness welcoming competition agencies small and large, new and established. The success of the ICN depends on the voluntary participation and contribution of all members to ensure dissemination of good practices and therefore facilitate cooperation and convergence. Having new, and more active members can only strengthen the global reach of the ICN, and enrich the quality of its work products.

## **2. WHAT IS THE WELCOME TRACK?**

Engaging all members, and getting everyone involved, especially new members, has become a higher priority for the ICN given the growing membership of the network. The Welcome Track was designed with that objective in mind. Its purpose is to guide new, recently joined, and non-active members through **a checklist of steps to fully engage in the ICN.**

### 3. GET INVOLVED: JUST A FEW STEPS AWAY

#### **STEP 1: You want to get involved - Apply to become an ICN member.**

##### **Who can join?**

National or multinational competition agencies entrusted with the enforcement of competition law(s) or a competition agency of a customs territory entrusted with the enforcement of competition law(s) throughout the customs territory.

##### **How to join?**

Please submit an accession letter and completed **Member Registration Form** [in hyperlink] to the KFTC, Chair of the ICN Membership Working Group via fax or email at: [email address]. A **model accession letter** [in hyperlink] is attached for your convenience. Please note that your letter should indicate your endorsement of the ICN Operational Framework [in hyperlink], and should be signed by the head of competition authority applying for the membership.

Your application will be processed by the KFTC, and submitted to the Steering Group [in hyperlink] for approval. The KFTC will keep you updated on the status of your application.

#### **STEP 2: Welcome to the ICN! You are now an ICN member.**

You will receive a welcome email from the Chair of the ICN Steering Group.

Congratulations, you are now part of the ICN community!

### **STEP 3: Show me the way - Meet your welcoming guide.**

New members, recently joined members, and non-active members who want to become more engaged can request the assistance of an existing ICN member as a ‘welcoming guide’ and contact point. For those who choose to do so, please mention it by replying to the Chair’s welcome email or [contacting the Secretariat](#). You will then be contacted by email by your guide. Engaging with your guide is voluntary.

**Your guide will be an available contact point** for any questions you may have about becoming involved in the ICN (identifying and structuring your contacts, managing your relationship with Working Groups, prioritizing your work, interacting with NGAs, etc.). The guide will also schedule a rendez-vous call with you to get some feedback on your integration within the ICN.

### **STEP 4: Get familiar with the ICN - Enroll in a new member call.**

Introductory calls to the ICN are organized and advertised on a regular basis by the ICN Chair and members of the Steering Group. These calls are tailored to those who are new to the ICN and want to learn more about how to become active in the ICN’s work. They are a great jump start to understand what the ICN is all about. It is up to you, depending on your availability, to enroll in one of the calls.

#### **The objectives of the calls are the following:**

- Introducing the ICN (mission, organization, NGA participation, and resources such as the ICN blog);
- Presenting an overview of the work conducted by the Working Groups, the existing work products and future work (Please refer to the Outreach Toolkit [in hyperlink] for an ICN introduction and presentation);
- Introducing training materials available through the ICN Curriculum Project [in hyperlink]. The ICN Curriculum Project develops training modules, consisting of video lectures and accompanying materials, which serve as a virtual university on competition law and practice for competition agencies. Topics of modules include competition policy fundamentals, horizontal restraints, dominant firm conduct, and mergers;

- Explaining the support role of the Advocacy & Implementation Network [in hyperlink] (AIN). The JFTC, Chair of the AIN, leads the network and implements technical assistance based on ICN work product to younger agencies with the help of AIN members through its Advocacy & Implementation Network Support Program (AISUP). Other activities of the AIN include providing an Introductory kit [in hyperlink] to new/younger agencies, and maintaining the [ICN Work Products Catalogue](#) [in hyperlink].

**STEP 5: Let's get down to work - Choose and contact your Working Groups.**

The ICN's substantive work is carried out by five Working Groups, which are the cornerstone of the ICN. Each Working Group is chaired by three ICN members called "co-chairs", which are responsible for conducting the work of the group and ensuring that the Working Group's annual work plan is effectively executed. Both ICN members and NGAs play an active role in Working Groups.

The current Working Groups are as follows:

- **The Advocacy Working Group** [in hyperlink] (AWG): the mission of the AWG is to develop practical tools and guidance, and to facilitate experience sharing among ICN members in order to improve the effectiveness of ICN members' advocacy activities;

- **The Agency Effectiveness Working Group** [in hyperlink] (AEWG): the mission of the AEWG is to identify key elements of a well-functioning competition agency and good practices for strategy and planning, operations, and enforcement tools and procedures;

- **The Cartel Working Group** [in hyperlink] (CWG): the mandate of the CWG is to address the challenges of anti-cartel enforcement, including fighting hardcore cartels, bid rigging, market sharing and market allocations;

- **The Merger Working Group** [in hyperlink] (MWG): the mission of the MWG is to promote the adoption of good practices in the design and operation of merger review regimes in order to primarily enhance the effectiveness of each jurisdiction's merger review mechanisms;

- **The Unilateral Conduct Working Group** [in hyperlink] (UCWG): the primary objectives of the UCWG are to examine the challenges involved in analyzing unilateral conduct of dominant firms and firms with substantial market power, and to promote greater convergence and sound enforcement of laws governing unilateral conduct.

Once you have selected the Working Group(s) in which you want to be active, please email the Working Group(s)' co-chairs with the names, titles and contact information of the people within your agency responsible for participating in the group. You will be added to the group's distribution list, and will receive all the email correspondence pertaining to the group's activities.

Please note that each Working Group will email you back to confirm your involvement and provide **the contact information of the Working Group's co-chair tasked with member and NGA engagement.**

Working Group co-chairs will guide you through any questions relating to the group's existing work products and current work plans, and can suggest ways to get you involved in projects of the group.

#### **STEP 6: Extra hands - Recruit NGAs.**

NGAs contribute valuable time, resources and thinking to the ICN's work, and thus increase the ICN's overall capacity to undertake projects. Please refer to the **NGA Toolkit** [in hyperlink] to learn more about the role of NGAs, the benefits of having NGAs, how to recruit them, and how to engage them.

Questions can also be addressed to the NGA Liaison, Bruno Lasserre, Vice Chair of the ICN, at [ICN.NGALiaison@autoritedelaconurrence.fr](mailto:ICN.NGALiaison@autoritedelaconurrence.fr). His mandate is to better engage NGAs of diverse backgrounds and geographic distribution to participate more actively in the ICN, so that the network can benefit from a wide spectrum of views and interests.

**STEP 7: Interact in person with other members and NGAs.**

Attending the ICN Annual conference and Working Groups' workshops will allow you to have in-person interaction with other ICN members and NGAs. The meetings also provide opportunities to draw on the experiences and support of other members, and serve as excellent ways to immerse oneself in the ongoing work and future work of the ICN.

For more information on ICN events, please go to:

<http://www.internationalcompetitionnetwork.org/news-and-events/all-events.aspx>.

**STEP 8: Are you on the right track? - Rendez-vous call with your guide.**

Your welcoming guide is available for feedback (please refer to STEP 3 above). Please take the time to provide **your feedback** as it will be useful to fine-tune your integration if necessary, and to improve the integration process of new and non-active members in general.

**PLEASE CONTACT the ICN Secretariat [[ICN.Secretariat@cb-bc.gc.ca](mailto:ICN.Secretariat@cb-bc.gc.ca) in hyperlink] if you have any questions or experience difficulties along the way.**