



## **THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION NETWORK APPROVES NEW WORK ON EFFECTIVE COMPETITION ENFORCEMENT AND ADVOCACY**

### ***ICN discussions advance and advocate for sound competition policy***

Porto, Portugal May 12, 2017 – The 16th Annual Conference of the International Competition Network (ICN) successfully concluded this week. Approximately 600 participants from almost 100 jurisdictions, including approximately 240 representatives and stakeholders from the business, legal and economic communities, as well as international organisations and academics, attended this year’s conference, held from May 10 until May 12.

Given the reach of the ICN, which comprises of 135 competition agencies from 122 jurisdictions, the Network has become an advocate for the importance of competition law and policy worldwide. As ICN Chair Andreas Mundt, President of the German Bundeskartellamt, indicated in his opening speech “We have good reasons to advocate for a world, free of trade barriers because that fosters competition and is good for the consumer.” At the Conference, the ICN Steering Group re-elected Andreas Mundt as Chair for the term 2017-2019.

The Conference attendees discussed many key topics during the seven plenary and approximately thirty breakout sessions that are integral to sound competition enforcement. The Conference approved many new ICN work products developed over the past year by ICN Working Groups on a range of enforcement and policy issues, including:

- the Merger Working Group overhauled its Recommended Practices – among the most recognised and influential ICN work products. It revised and updated the Recommended Practices on defining transactions for notification, notification thresholds, merger remedies, and the role of efficiencies in merger analysis;
- the Unilateral Conduct Working Group presented new work on an appropriate analytical framework for evaluating exclusionary conduct;

- the Agency Effectiveness Working Group completed reports on Competition Agency Training Programs and on the Agency Use of Social Media Report, highlighting effective ways for agencies to communicate externally via social media;
- the Advocacy Working Group completed work on its Benefits Project, which focused on explaining the benefits of competition to the general public through the media and academia, and drafted a report on effective advocacy strategies; and
- the Cartel Working Group produced a new good practices report on cartel fines along with a checklist for effective leniency programs.

In the upcoming year, the Working Groups will continue to lead projects addressing the fundamentals of sound competition enforcement as well as emerging policy issues. The ICN's 2017-2018 work plans included expected work on topics such as vertical mergers, merger investigative techniques, enforcement cooperation, agency organizational choices, the role of economists in enforcement, leniency programs, and vertical restraints.

As in previous conferences, the host agency led a special project for conference discussion. The Portuguese Authority led discussions on proactive strategies for deterrence, highlighting effective non-enforcement initiatives that agencies can use to bolster competition culture and compliance with the law. There also was an optional session held in Portuguese to engage a fruitful discussion on "The Building Blocks of an Effective Competition Policy".

The next ICN Annual Conference will be hosted by the Competition Commission of India in New Delhi, India from March 21 until 23, 2018.

For additional information about the ICN, please visit the ICN website at [www.internationalcompetitionnetwork.org](http://www.internationalcompetitionnetwork.org).