



ICN Steering Group Meeting
June 13, 2012
08:00 – 09:00, Paris

Attendees

- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
- Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato (Italy)
- Autorité de la concurrence (France)
- Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense
- Bundeskartellamt (Germany)
- Competition Bureau Canada
- European Commission DG Competition
- Japan Fair Trade Commission
- Korea Fair Trade Commission
- Mexico Federal Competition Commission
- Netherlands Competition Authority
- Polish Office of Competition and Consumer Protection
- Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service
- South African Competition Commission
- Turkish Competition Authority
- United Kingdom Office of Fair Trading
- United States Department of Justice
- United States Federal Trade Commission

Agenda Item 1. Minutes and Agenda

The Steering Group approved the proposed agenda. The chair asked for comments on the previous minutes by June 30.

Agenda Item 2. Vision Statement

Having endorsed the Chair's vision statement presented at the 2012 annual conference, the Steering Group discussion focused on how the goals can be implemented.

Members agreed with the general direction of member engagement initiatives proposed in the Chair's note for this meeting, and to discuss proposals in greater detail at an upcoming Steering Group meeting.

Members next discussed how to implement the vision statement's goals on supporting members' requests for assistance. There was general agreement to continue to provide external support to members, including when members request comments on how proposed legislation reflects ICN Recommended Practices and other ICN work product. Members discussed different ways to provide this support, including providing tools for self-assessment, technical advice and mentoring via the Advocacy and Implementation Support Program (AISUP), and ICN chair

comments on proposed laws or regulations. For ICN comments, there was discussion about finding an approach consistent with the ICN's mandate. Some Steering Group members emphasized the importance of external endorsement of proposed reforms, particularly in jurisdictions where the international norm gives legitimacy to domestic efforts.

There was agreement that public comments should be based on ICN work product, describing consistency with agreed ICN best practice, and that the Steering Group have an adequate opportunity to review outgoing comments. The chair was asked to prepare basic principles and parameters for taking the work forward, and to work with the Advocacy and Implementation Network and AISUP to provide more holistic assistance. The chair agreed to prepare a proposal for discussion at the July meeting covering both principles and processes that could be followed.

Steering Group members agreed that to realize the third goal of the vision statement, increasing the visibility of competition policy and principles, requires engagement of a broader audience than competition law enforcers. Steering Group members agreed, as a first step, to develop messages on topics such as the role of competition policy in promoting economic growth and the role of government in markets, as well as initial consideration of general principles for competition-friendly policy formulation. The chair suggested developing the messages as well as some strategies for the international debate for discussion with the Steering Group and ICN members more generally.

One Steering Group member flagged two issues related to the vision statement's section on operational issues: (1) how the Steering Group will interact with the new projects on the courts, international cooperation, and investigative process, and (2) the importance of reviewing all ICN projects with an eye to prioritizing key projects and allowing some projects to wind down when appropriate.

Agenda 3. ICN-OECD liaison

The ICN-OECD Liaison stressed the importance that the OECD and ICN engage with one another, and highlighted the joint survey on international cooperation as an important step in engagement.

Agenda 4. Member and NGA Engagement

The Steering Group agreed to take forward proposals for a project for a new member track and an academic hubs project. Vice Chair Lasserre will also present other proposals, such as a mentoring project between Steering Group members and new agencies, at a future meeting.

Agenda Item 5. Horizontal Coordinator and Vice Chair for Working Groups

Steering Group members supported the Horizontal Coordinator's proposal for a three-year work plan template and for Vice Chair Mundt to prepare other proposals to support Working Group chairs and production of top quality work products.

Agenda Item 6. AEWG

The Steering Group approved a revised mission statement and work plan.

Agenda Item 7. OFWG

The Steering Group approved the request by OFWG co-chairs to review processes for selecting agencies for leadership positions. One Steering Group member raised the process for selecting workshop hosts, suggesting the importance of allowing all interested members to submit themselves as potential hosts.

Agenda Item 8. Other business

One Steering Group member noted that a previous applicant for ICN membership would resubmit their application as the agency is now enforcing a national cartel law.

The 2012 annual conference hosts noted a good response rate and very positive feedback from the conference evaluation forms.