

Note from the Chair for the October 24, 2012 Steering Group Meeting

October 17, 2012

Dear colleagues,

We will use next week's Steering Group meeting for lengthier discussions on two topics: (1) ICN workload, and (2) implementation of the Vision Statement's goal of increasing the visibility of competition policy and principles.

If you would like to include additional items for discussion, please contact the ICN Secretariat (Secretariat.ICN@bc-cb.gc.ca) by Friday, September 21.

Workload

Vice Chair Andreas Mundt will lead a discussion on workload. A separate note from Andreas is being circulated separately, but briefly, we will build on earlier discussions in the Working Group Chairs' group to discuss questions related to quality and quantity of ICN projects and work product, and participation in developing that work product.

Increasing the Visibility of Competition Policy and Principles

At the June meeting, we began a discussion of how we might implement the third goal of the vision statement, increasing the visibility of competition policy and principles. We agreed that this is an important goal, and that in order to reach that goal we need to have clear messages about the benefits of competition that goes beyond the benefits of law enforcement. We also discussed the possibility of ICN work on principles for regulators, akin to the OECD's Competition Assessment Toolkit.

Following the June meeting, we have had the good fortune to work closely with the chairs of the Advocacy Working Group to develop a strategy to take forward these initiatives. We agree that developing messages on the benefits of competition policy fits well with the working group's project, Raising Awareness of the Benefits of Competition. Following the Paris workshop, the working group will kick off this project with a discussion about the themes these messages might cover, and the format we might use to present them. We expect to have a work product for the Warsaw conference.

As Philip Collins pointed out at our last meeting, the profile and role of competition policy is potentially weaker than a few years ago. At our meeting next week we can begin the discussion on messages by sharing any relevant experience in our own jurisdictions, what we have observed or been involved in over the past few years. This could lead to a discussion of the types of high level messages we may want to develop and the themes we should cover. If time permits, we should

also think forward to how these messages might be delivered to an international audience, and what fora might be appropriate.

The other part of the visibility goal outlined in the vision statement is the work on principles for regulators. My goal would be to use this ICN year to prepare, within the Advocacy Working Group, initial thoughts on what these practices might cover. We could then launch the project in the 2013-2014 ICN year. My expectation is that the ICN work would be very similar in content to the OECD Competition Assessment Toolkit, and build on member related initiatives, such as the new Chilean Guidelines on Public Sector and Competition and the French Autorite's Guide for competition impact assessment of draft legislation.

I look forward to speaking with all of you next week.

Best regards,

Eduardo