

Note from the Chair for the June 19, 2013 Steering Group Meeting

June 11, 2013

Dear colleagues,

Wednesday, June 19 is our first Steering Group meeting of the new ICN year. The main focus of our meeting is to review and consider for adoption the 2013-2016 work plans and continue our discussion on the joint ICN/OECD cooperation project.

If you would like to include additional items for discussion, please contact the ICN Secretariat (Secretariat.ICN@bc-cb.gc.ca) by Friday, June 14, 2013.

Approval of ICN Working Group Work Plans

The Horizontal Coordinator will lead a discussion on the Working Groups' three-year work plans. We ask that one working group chair from each working group briefly present their work plan for Steering Group approval. In doing so, it will be interesting to hear feedback received at the annual conference, and how working groups prioritized this year's projects.

The work plans and summary report will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

Cooperation Project

The ICN-OECD Liaison will lead a discussion on the cooperation project and areas for future work identified in the work plans presented for adoption by ICN Working Groups and being discussed for the OECD Competition Committee at the June OECD meeting. It is important to ensure that, so far as possible, this work is coordinated so as to avoid duplication or potential conflict as well as best use of finite resources. This item will consider how ICN Working Groups can coordinate with the future OECD work on cooperation to ensure their outputs (guidance, model waivers) can best align with, and benefit from, work going on in OECD Competition Committee and vice versa.

Questions to consider for discussion at the June 19 meeting:

- a) Do Steering Group members foresee any areas of duplication or potential conflict in the current division of labour (particularly in terms of outputs)?
- b) Equally, is there anything in the ICN work plans that would link up with OECD topics (either planned or potential)?
- c) Are there any additional topics/areas on cooperation that either the ICN or OECD would be well-suited to address?

Other Business

The Membership Working Group co-chairs will discuss membership criteria and plans for outreach in Africa.

The Secretariat circulated the letter submitted to the COMESA Competition Commission summarizing the draft market definition and merger assessment guidelines' conformity with ICN best practice. I would like to discuss the idea of an ICN resource person attending the COMESA meetings where the guidelines will be discussed.

Also, at our April meeting I proposed sending a letter to former ICN chairs and vice chairs to get their feedback on how the ICN might meet the challenges created by the expansion of the ICN's membership and work program. I contacted them via email in May, and hope to be able to report on their replies at this meeting or the July meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in Paris.

With best regards,

Eduardo