

ICN Steering Group Meeting

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

8:15am (Paris)

Attendees

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense
Competition Bureau Canada
European Commission DG Competition
French Autorité de la concurrence
German Bundeskartellamt
Japan Fair Trade Commission
Italian Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato
Korean Fair Trade Commission
Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission
Netherlands Competition Authority
Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service
South African Competition Commission
Spanish Competition Authority
Swedish Competition Authority
Turkish Competition Authority
United Kingdom Competition and Markets Authority
United States Department of Justice
United States Federal Trade Commission

Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Steering Group (SG) approved the proposed agenda and the minutes of the April 25 meeting, subject to any comments submitted to the Secretariat by June 27, 2014.

Item 2: work plans

The Horizontal Coordinator (HC) briefly presented the final report on the Working Group (WG) work plans. According to this report the ICN will be engaging in 27 projects next year, which is consistent with previous years. It was also emphasised that all working groups have included the implementation of work products as a fixed element in the work plans. This is a very welcomed development.

Mr. John Pecman, in his new capacity as ICN- OECD Liaison, pointed out that the OECD would refrain from dealing with a topic on vertical restraints. Therefore, there was no evident overlap between the work of the two organisations. Also in the future, Mr. Pecman in this new role will actively identify cooperation and coordination opportunities between the two fora.

According to the Horizontal Coordinator's report, all WGs had planned to hold a workshop in the upcoming ICN year. The Unilateral Conduct WG clarified that they had reconsidered and would not be holding a workshop in this ICN year. All other WGs confirmed their plans to host a workshop.

The Chair cautioned that too many workshops especially in a short time period could overstretch agencies' travel capacities and budgets. If only limited number of agencies were able to participate in all the envisaged workshops this might limit their impact with regard to inclusiveness. Accordingly he raised the question whether a process was needed to ensure that the number of workshops per year was reduced to allow many agencies to be represented in these important events.

SG members highlighted the importance of workshops and that in the past these events have played a successful role in the implementation of the ICN's work. Many jurisdictions were happy to host workshops and the past workshops had been very well attended. However, the strain on the budget was not to be disregarded. Still, SG members were not in favour of having a strict process for workshop planning. Rather it was suggested that WGs contact the HC in time to ensure that there is no conflict with regard to the timing. Furthermore WGs were encouraged to consider holding workshops less frequently than once a year.

All work plans were approved by the SG.

Item 3: Implementation

Vice Chair Vinicius Marques de Carvalho provided a brief update following the discussion at the 2014 Marrakech Annual Conference regarding the implementation of ICN work products.

He had presented some ideas how to advance implementation. The idea is to find a consolidated approach for implementing the many good ICN work products. Following the session positive feedback was given by conference participants. The Vice Chair will present more details of the idea to the SG and the ICN members in the near future.

Item 4: Involvement of International Organisations

The SG discussed the involvement of International Organisations in the ICN. According to the ICN's Operational Framework, "the ICN seeks to work together with International Organisations and the Steering Group may invite international organisations to participate in the work."

The Chair updated the SG on a meeting with the World Bank in Marrakech. Following up on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Bank group request to work with the ICN, the SG generally supported this and agreed to invite these two organisations to participate in ICN activities.

Going forward, if other International Organisations are interested in cooperating with the ICN the SG will decide on a case by case basis. As a basis for its decision the SG might consider a number of criteria and take into account how the organisations can benefit from working together and the degree of reciprocity.

The SG agreed that it would be helpful if the mutual expectations of the cooperation are defined at the start of the cooperation.

Item 5: 2015 Annual Conference

The ACCC provided an update on the conference planning for the 2015 Annual Conference. It will be held from 28 April to 1 May 2015 in Sydney. Updates were given on the location of the side events. At the conference itself, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations may have an opportunity to showcase their agenda. Regarding the pre-Event, both World Bank Group and the International Bar Association are interested to host events. Topics at Both pre-events will have an Asia-Pacific theme. Both organisations are currently discussing how to coordinate the events. The International Chamber of Commerce is also likely to host a pre-event; however, they have not yet approached the conference organiser.

The Conference organiser is hoping to have a first agenda including the sessions and time frames by November.

Furthermore the ACCC requested the approval for getting sponsorship for the events. No labelling or speaking opportunities will be offered to potential sponsors. There were no objections by the SG to the ACCC having sponsors at the social events.

Item 6: Dates for the 2016 Annual Conference

The Chair sought approval of the dates for the 2016 ICN Annual Conference. The proposed dates were April 26-29, 2016 or May 24-27, 2016. Considering the dates for the 2016 OECD sessions will be held in mid June, the SG recommended holding the 2016 Annual Conference in April.

Item 7: Approval of ICN work product

The JFTC sought approval of the revised ICN Catalogue of work products and received it. Further it requested that the work product catalogue should be sent to ICN members informing them of the revised version.

Item 8: Other business

The Steering Group discussed a request by the Turkish Cypriot Competition Board.

Item 9. Future Meetings of the Steering Group

Following the OECDs decision to change the dates for its sessions, the dates for future face to face ICN SG meetings in Paris will also have to be adjusted. The February Meeting will no longer take place in Paris, therefore the discussion of work plans will have to be held during a conference call.

The next Steering Group meetings will be held:

- July 9, 2014
- September 17, 2014
- October 29, 2014
- November 19, 2014 (if required)
- December 17, 2014 (on the margins of the OECD)
- January 14, 2015
- February 18, 2015

- March 18, 2015 (if required)
- April 8, 2015
- April 15, 2015