

ICN Newsletter Issue 1-2018

[View this email in your browser](#)



International  
Competition  
Network



Bundeskartellamt

## Letter From The Chair

January 2018

Dear ICN members and NGAs,

I wish you and your families all the best for 2018! The ICN follows a different calendar and the turn of year is still to come. We will enter the ICN year 2018/19 in New Delhi on 21-23 March.

The **ICN Annual Conference** is taking shape. The working groups have selected topics for their plenary sessions:



- AWG: Advocacy for the Good Times, the Bad Times or Any Time
- AEWG: Perspectives from the Bench: Litigating competition cases
- CWG: Incentives, Deterrence and Compensation
- MWG: Vertical Mergers
- UCWG: Online Markets and Vertical Restraints: the Same Old Story?

The agenda is available on the **conference website** including breakout session topics. As always we will have a session from younger agencies for younger agencies and an NGA session.

As a next step the working groups will select speakers. The ICN is a truly global network, it is the youngest but fastest growing forum for multilateral cooperation, which represents the vast majority of the world's competition enforcers. Another asset of the ICN is the strong involvement of NGAs. To mirror this unique structure, we are aiming at speaker diversity in

terms of geography and group diversity, i.e. a good mix of agencies, private practice, and academics. If you are interested in playing an active role, don't hesitate to contact the working group co-chairs.

The ICN Annual Conference marks the peak of the running ICN year, but also the start of the next ICN year. The working groups are currently working towards completion of their work products which will be presented in New Delhi. And they are also setting the course for the future by drafting their work plans. If you have topics which are of interest for you and your agency, share your ideas with your colleagues in the working groups. As in every year, we will see changes in the working group leadership. The new teams will also be presented to the ICN Community at the Annual Conference.

I am already looking forward to welcoming you in New Delhi.

Best regards,  
Andreas Mundt

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **January**

<b>16</b>	CWG SG2
<b>17</b>	Co-Chairs / ACPC
<b>18</b>	AWG
<b>23</b>	MWG
<b>24</b>	CWG webinar "ex officio investigations" - <b>agencies only!</b>
<b>25</b>	AEWG teleseminar on Merger Simulation
<b>30</b>	UCWG webinar "excessive pricing"

**2018 ICN Annual Conference**  
New Delhi, 21-23 March 2018

---

### **ICN INSIGHTS**

---

**2018 ICN Annual Conference**



## भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग Competition Commission of India

The 2018 ICN Annual Conference will be hosted by the Competition Commission of India from 21-23 March 2018 at the Hotel Ashok, New Delhi. The Agenda including the topics is online: <http://www.icn2018delhi.in/agenda.html>

---

### **ICN and regional competition cooperation**

Since its establishment in 2001, the International Competition Network has been instrumental in promoting effective competition policy worldwide. Having grown to a network which counts more than 130 competition authorities as its members, the potential is considerable. The ICN follows a hands-on approach and focuses on developing guidance for the authorities' practical work. Its members' knowledge and experience have been channelled into an impressive and steadily growing body of practical recommendations, recommended practices and other tools on investigative techniques and analytical frameworks. Both young and mature competition authorities can find support.

In recent years, we have seen much multilateral cooperation on a more regional level. To ensure an equal regional representation and diversity, the ICN cooperates with regional networks and is keen on supporting younger agencies in establishing and cultivating effective competition policy. The 2018 Manila Forum on Competition in Developing Countries is an excellent example of the role that regional cooperation can play in this regard. The Manila Forum will be hosted by the Philippine Competition Commission on 1-2 February 2018. Other examples are found in the BRICS International Competition Conference, which recently held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and the ASEAN Experts Group on Competition, which celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017 and has been organizing multiple workshops, training courses and seminars. An ICN AEWG workshop on due process for ASEAN senior competition officers took place in Singapore on 18 August 2017. Other regional networks include the African Competition Forum (ACF) and the Latin American and Caribbean Competition Forum (LACCF). ICN Chair Andreas Mundt already participated in three ACF meetings as a speaker, most recently in Paris in December 2017. A joint ICN/ACF workshop took place in Botswana in March 10-11, 2016. The ACF will host its biannual conference in Morocco in October 2018. The Latin American and Caribbean Competition Forum is organized on a year by year basis since 2003 by the OECD and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The next LACCF will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 18-20 September 2018.

Alejandra Palacios Prieto, President of the Mexican Competition Authority COFECE acts as ICN Vice Chair for Younger Agencies and Regional Diversity. She has played an active role in engaging competition agencies from other regions such as Latin America to have a comprehensive representation of competition worldwide.

For further information please contact [Carolina Garayzar Gómez](#), COFECE.

---

### **Competition Advocacy Contest**

# COMPETITION ADVOCACY CONTEST 2017



Do not miss the opportunity to participate in the on-going edition of the Contest by sending your advocacy story.

**Deadline: 15 January 2018.**

For more information and to apply, please visit the following web page

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2017/11/08/the-2017---2018-competition-advocacy-contest#1>

---

## **Teleseminar on Merger Simulation – January 25, 8:00-9:00 am (Washington time)**

Merger simulation is a widely-used approach to quantify consumer harm, prospective price effects, and the impact of claimed merger efficiencies in performing a competitive effects analysis. This presentation by DOJ economists Michael Sandfort and Charles Taragin shows how to use “antitrust,” a set of tools DOJ has written in the freely-available R statistical programming language, to perform merger simulation. We will discuss how to use the package both late in an investigation, when econometric estimates of buyer demand are available, as well as early in an investigation, when buyer demand often must be “calibrated” from limited information on prices, quantities (or market shares) and profit margins. Because the calibrated merger effects are typically sensitive to assumptions on buyer demand, we will show how the package allows one to quickly simulate merger effects under a variety of different demand specifications.

Note: The “antitrust” package runs on the open-source R statistical language. Both are available (gratis and mostly free of IP encumbrances) from CRAN at <https://cran.r-project.org>. The package page is at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/antitrust/index.html> with a link to a PDF document (“Manual”) describing the models and functionality. There is also a link to a reference manual (“antitrust.pdf”) but this is more technical documentation (i.e., command syntax) rather than explanation.

If you would like to receive additional information regarding this teleseminar and any future AEWG-related activities, please contact [Alexa Gendron-O'Donnell](#).

---

## **ICN Unilateral Conduct Workshop Rome 2017**



**UNILATERAL  
CONDUCT  
WORKSHOP**  
Rome 2017

The Italian Competition Authority was delighted to host the sixth ICN Unilateral Conduct Workshop in Rome, on 30 November and 1 December 2017. 120 delegates participated in the Workshop, representing 42 jurisdictions.

The event focused on three themes: antitrust tools and techniques to address novel digital challenges, platform market power and parity agreements. The Workshop also offered practical, hands-on breakout sessions, based on hypothetical scenarios.

The relevant materials can be found here:

<http://www.agcm.it/icn-ucwg-workshop-2017.html>

Save the date for the forthcoming **ICN Unilateral Conduct WG Webinar of 30 January 2018**, which will be devoted to the topic of **excessive pricing**. Further details will be circulated shortly.



---

If you request additional information please contact:

Dr Olaf Wrede  
ICN Chair's Office  
[olaf.wrede@bundeskartellamt.bund.de](mailto:olaf.wrede@bundeskartellamt.bund.de)

Nigel Caesar  
ICN Secretariat  
[ic.icnsecretariatcb-bc.ic@canada.ca](mailto:ic.icnsecretariatcb-bc.ic@canada.ca)

*Copyright © 2016 Bundeskartellamt, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**  
info@bundeskartellamt.bund.de

You can **unsubscribe from this list here**.