

Andreas Mundt
Chairman ICN Steering Group
President Federal Cartel Office

3 May 2018

Note from the Chair for the Steering Group Meeting on 9 May 2018

Dear colleagues,

Next week we will meet for the first SG meeting in the new ICN year 2018/19. I would like to continue our discussion on future ICN annual conferences while things are fresh in everybody's memory. The conference in New Delhi was a great success, so there is no pressure to change a lot. However, if we want to develop the format further, we have the flexibility to do so. As Bill Kovacic put it: ICN portrayed itself as the fast, agile, highly maneuverable fighter aircraft juxtaposed with other international organizations' slow, ungainly commercial transports. Our face-to-face meeting in Paris in June will be the right time for decision-making. Next week we can discuss the ideas brought forward in Delhi and maybe even additional ideas and weigh the pros and cons. This will leave enough time for further discussions in the ACPC and between co-chairs before the meeting in Paris. The most radical issue that came up in New Delhi is not included in the minutes as we have not yet discussed it in the SG: should the overall three-day format of the conference be reviewed? Should different days focus on different target groups, e.g. one day dedicated to BOS and capacity building?

The conference host 2019, the Colombian Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio, will provide a first brief update on the planning, particularly on the date of the conference and the venue.

We will also hear from the ICN-OECD/KPC Competition Economics Workshop for Chief/Senior Economists which will be currently taking place in Seoul, Korea, 2-4 May 2018.

The website team will present an update. There has been a slight "glitch" in the launch. Meanwhile, we have to think of ways to keep it up-to-date. The maintenance of a website is not an easy task and we should discuss how this can be managed right from the start.

Additional topics are NGA engagement, implementation and the UNCTAD discussion group on international cooperation.

The updated work plans are not on the agenda for the meeting in May. I have informed the co-chairs about the SG's proposal to include more digital topics and the new working group leadership will present the results in June.

With best regards,

Andreas Mundt