

Cartel Prohibition

Austria: Semperit fined EUR 1.6 million for market sharing within a JV

- ▶ Semperit, a company active in the rubber and plastics industry, was fined EUR 1.6m for violating the cartel prohibition (German press release of the BWB can be found [here](#)).
- ▶ As part of its production joint venture with Sri Trang Agro-Industry, it was agreed that the European market would be reserved exclusively to Semperit. The unlawful agreement lasted from the establishment of the JV in 2002 to 2017.
- ▶ Sri Trang Agro-Industry was granted immunity from fines following its leniency application in 2015.

Czech Republic: Rail freight transporters fined for bid-rigging

- ▶ In a first-instance decision the Czech Competition Authority (“CCA”) found that Rail Cargo Austria AG, České dráhy, a.s. (Czech Railways) and AWT Čechofracht a.s. acted in breach of EU and Czech competition rules by illegally cooperating in the rail freight transport project Italia (Czech press release of the CCA can be found [here](#)).
- ▶ Rail Cargo Austria AG was granted immunity from fines following its leniency application. The fines of the remaining cartelists were significantly reduced following a settlement procedure (CZK 3.7m (approx. EUR 145k) for AWT Čechofracht and CZK 48m (approx. EUR 1.9m) for Czech Railways).
- ▶ The decision is not yet final; further details of the case will be communicated by the CCA once the decision has become binding.

Hungary: Substantial reduction of medical equipment bid rigging fine

- ▶ The Hungarian competition authority (*Gazdasági Versenyhivatal*; “GVH”) found that GE Hungary Kft and Silver Wood – IT Kft had entered into an agreement to determine the winner of a tender in May 2015.
- ▶ Because of the cooperation of both undertakings with the GVH during the process the total fine was reduced by more than HUF 10m. According to an

GVH [press release](#), the reduction is a result of GE Hungary Kft. submitting a leniency application and Silver Wood – IT Kft. acknowledging the statement of facts established by the GVH. In Addition, Silver Wood – IT Kft introduced a compliance programme.

- ▶ Due to the leniency application GE Hungary Kft received immunity from fines and Silver Wood – IT Kft was fined a total of HUF 2.6m (approx. EUR 8 k) including a reduction of 35 %.

Moldova: Three construction companies fined for bid rigging

- ▶ According to its Romanian language [press release](#), the Moldovan Competition Council (CC) fined Ozun-Cons SRL, Oztor SRL and Eurodeviz SRL a total of MDL 0.78m (EUR 0.04m) for bid rigging in several construction tenders in 2012.

Romania: Market for non-prescription medicine and dietary supplements under scrutiny

- ▶ Romania's Competition Council (CC) has commenced a sector inquiry into non-prescription medicines and food supplements and therefore has opened an investigation.
- ▶ The agency put forward a [press release](#) in which it made clear that in case the suspicion will turn out to be true, the CC may ask existing regulations to be amended, issue clarifications, or even send warnings to companies.
- ▶ Investigations of the CC will be focusing on screening the market's structural conditions. Therefore, it needs information of both the producers and suppliers the agency said.

Serbia: Four new cartel probes against baby care companies have been opened

- ▶ Serbia's antitrust agency suspects illegal price-fixing in the market for baby care products and therefore opened four additional investigations into ten companies (see [here](#) for the agency's press release).
- ▶ The latest preoccupation comes from two other probes in the same market started in April earlier this year. Premises of importers and distributors of baby and infant products were raided because of the suspicion of illegally maintaining prices.

- ▶ To the agency this is a major concern because this market has "special significance" for consumers and society. Hence, the agency plans to conduct a sector inquiry as well.

Slovakia: Slovakia's Antimonopoly Office (SAO) has opened an e-commerce sector inquiry

- ▶ In a recent [press release](#), the agency stresses the importance to ensure that competition law is correctly applied in this important sector.
- ▶ Between 2015 and 2016, the European Commission conducted a similar sector inquiry into the e-commerce sector and identified various antitrust concerns.
- ▶ The goal is to identify possible issues regarding competition law. Questionnaires will serve as a medium to obtain information on the given subject. These will be sent to a wide range of recipients, including mainly e-commerce retailers.