

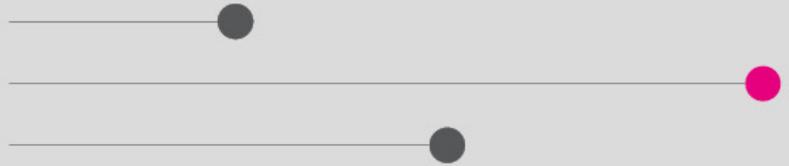
Public Enforcement

Czech Republic: Czech Competition Authority (CCA) and Czech Energy Regulatory Office (CERO) cooperate in monitoring the wholesale electricity and gas markets

- ▶ Following a cooperation memorandum signed between the CCA and CERO last year, representatives of both institutions met at a joint workshop to discuss the functioning of the REMIT Regulation and the possibilities of its use to detect anti-competitive behavior in the wholesale electricity and gas markets (Czech press release to be found [here](#)).
- ▶ The REMIT Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency) requires wholesale energy market participants to report information on transactions, capacity and utilisation of facilities for the production, storage, consumption and transmission of electricity, gas and LNG. Suspicious transactions are then reported to the national regulatory authorities.
- ▶ The joint negotiations between the CCA and CERO were mainly about how the institutions will share input - from initial information to sharing of evidence concerning specific cases.
- ▶ The CCA stated further in its press release that this workshop kicked off the cooperation between the CCA and CERO to the benefit of both small and large energy consumers. Restricting competition and price increases resulting therefrom would damage consumers first and foremost.

Slovakia: Slovakia's Antimonopoly Office (SAO) has published updated guidelines on its method of setting fines

- ▶ Following a consultation on proposed changes to the fining guidelines that started in December 2017, the SAO has published an updated version of these guidelines (Slovak version to be found [here](#)).
- ▶ The new guidelines introduce changes especially in relation to mitigating circumstances. An implicated undertaking can expect a reduction of fine if:
 - its role in the infringement was limited;
 - it ceased the behavior before it received the statement of objections (previously, prohibited behavior had to cease after the competition au-



thority intervened). This fine reduction is possible only for restrictions "by effect" not for restrictions "by object"; or

- it has reasonably assumed that its conduct was in accordance with the law because it was authorised by a public authority.