

The Belgian Competition Authority confirms that it is currently conducting inspections in the road signage and street furniture sectors

The Belgian Competition Authority (“BCA”) confirms that it is currently conducting inspections at the premises of companies active in the road signage and street furniture sectors.

On the basis of serious and convergent indications in its possession, the BCA suspects possible manipulations of public procurement procedures (“bid rigging”) and other practices contrary to Article IV.1 of the Code of Economic Law (“CEL”) and/or Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (“TFEU”), which prohibit anticompetitive agreements. It cannot be ruled out at this point that certain practices may also fall under Article IV.2 CEL and Article 102 TFEU, which prohibit abuses of dominance.

The BCA’s guidelines on the conduct of inspections can be [consulted on its website](#).

An inspection is a preliminary step in the investigation of restrictive practices and does not prejudice the outcome of the investigation in question. The duration of an investigation depends on several factors, including the degree of complexity of the case, the cooperation of the undertakings concerned, and the exercise of the rights of defence.

Conducts or practices that may constitute a breach of the Belgian and EU competition rules can be reported in a fast and secure way via the BCA’s reporting line accessible at www.bma-abc.be (see ‘[Report a competition issue?](#)’).

Companies and individuals involved in a cartel, including in the manipulation of public procurement procedures, can cooperate with the BCA by disclosing the relevant practices within the framework of the leniency program with a view to benefiting from full or partial exoneration of fine or immunity of prosecution (see ‘[Apply for leniency?](#)’).

For more information, please contact:

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The Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) is an independent administrative authority that contributes to the definition and implementation of competition policy in Belgium. Concretely, the BCA pursues anti-competitive practices, such as cartels and abuses of a dominant position, and reviews the main merger operations. The BCA cooperates with the other competition authorities of the member states of the European Union and the European Commission within the European Competition Network (ECN)