

The Belgian Competition Authority opens proceedings against AutoScout24 in the used cars sector

The Belgian Competition Authority (“BCA”) has opened an investigation into practices of AutoScout24 Belgium (“AutoScout24”), the entity operating the intermediation platform AutoScout24.be, on the basis of a complaint alleging restrictions to the development of competing platforms.

AutoScout24 supplies primarily intermediations services for the sale of second-hand automotive vehicles, which connect sellers of vehicles and potential buyers. These services are offered via an online portal and a mobile application. The practices that are the subject of the complaint relate to limitations to the portability of data entered on AutoScout24.be by professional sellers, with the alleged effects of discouraging these sellers to use competing platforms (i.e., “multi-homing”).

Upon preliminary analysis of the elements provided by the complainant and of evidence gathered by the Prosecution and Investigation Service on its own initiative, the Prosecutor general has concluded that there were serious indications of a possible infringement of competition rules prohibiting abuses of a dominant position (Article 102 TFEU and/or Article IV.2 of the Code of Economic Law (“CEL”)), and therefore decided to open a formal investigation pursuant to Article IV.39, 2° CEL.

The practices in question take place in the digital sector, which features among the BCA’s enforcement priorities. The case bears the reference CONC-RPR-26-0011. The opening of proceedings does not prejudice the possible outcome of the investigation, which is still at a preliminary stage, and AutoScout24 will be fully involved in the proceedings.

Conduct 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?](#)’).

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)