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The start of the Belgian Competition Authority

Pursuant to the royal decree of 30 August 2013, published in the Official Belgian Gazette, the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) has been established on Friday the 6th September 2013.

The authority has immediately started its activities according to the transitional provisions of the act of 3 April 2013 on the insertion of Book IV in the Code of Economic Law.

The notices of the Competition Council regarding [fines](#), [leniency](#) and [simplified procedures control](#) stay fully applicable.

The guidelines concerning the request for leniency will be applied by analogy to requests for leniency for natural persons.

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The BCA (composed of the Competition College and the President as the decision making body in formal procedures and the Investigation Service under the direction of the competition prosecutor general) has as mission statement to promote and to safeguard the existence of an effective competition in Belgium. To this end she examines and may impose sanctions on restrictive practices (cartels, abuse of dominant position). Its examines also the admissibility of concentrations which might have a noticeable effect on the market. To this end the authority applies books IV and V of the Code of Economic Law as stipulated in the act of 3 April 2013 (Belgian Official Gazette of 26 April 2013) and competition rules of the European Union such as articles 101 and 102 of the TFEU (ex-articles 81 and 82 of the EC treaty).The authority takes part in the implementation of the European competition policy. She works together with other competition authorities and is member of the European competition network(ECN), the European Competition Authorities (ECA) and the International Competition Network.