

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The Investigation & Prosecution Service of the Belgian Competition Authority adopts a settlement decision for market sharing agreements between SMEs in the regular river cruise sector and imposes a fine amounting to 64,100 euros**

The Investigation & Prosecution Service of the Belgian Competition Authority sanctioned two undertakings that participated in a market sharing for regular cruise services on the Upper Meuse and the navigable part of the Lesse and imposes a fine amounting to 64,100 euros.

The companies concerned are Compagnie des Bateaux de Dinant, Dinant Croisières, Dinant Evasion (these three companies belong to the same undertaking), Les Bateaux Mouches Belgique and Les Sarcelles (both companies belong to the same undertaking).

All companies covered by the investigation of the Investigation & Prosecution Service are parties to the settlement.

#### **Description of the infringement**

The two undertakings successively concluded two agreements aimed at sharing the market for the services of regular cruises on the Haute Meuse and the navigable part of the river Lesse between 1983 and 2014. This market sharing was achieved by pooling and sharing of means of production and revenues as well as by taking joint strategic decisions including price-fixing or assigning exclusive use of some river sections.

This practice was detected during 2014 thanks to the leniency program.

[http://www.abc-bma.be/sites/default/files/content/download/files/20160322\\_mb\\_lignes\\_directrices\\_clemence\\_clementier\\_ichtsnoeren.pdf](http://www.abc-bma.be/sites/default/files/content/download/files/20160322_mb_lignes_directrices_clemence_clementier_ichtsnoeren.pdf)

The undertaking controlling Les Bateaux Mouche Belgique and Les Sarcelles benefit of a full immunity in this case. Subsequently the undertaking controlling Compagnie des Bateaux de Dinant, Dinant Croisières and Dinant Evasion also applied for leniency and was granted a reduction of the otherwise applicable fines.

4 individuals applied and have been granted an immunity from prosecution.

The settlement decision is available on the website of the Belgian Competition Authority ([www.belgiancompetition.be](http://www.belgiancompetition.be))

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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)