

**The Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) has rejected a request for interim measures of the Medicare-Market group**

The SA Medicare-Market (hereafter Medicare-Market) filed on 2 June 2016 a complaint against the Order of Pharmacists and requested interim measures on 28 April 2017.

The Competition College of the BCA therefore needed to examine whether there are *prima facie* indications of an infringement of the rules of competition, and whether it is urgent to avoid a situation that can cause a prejudice to the applicant that is serious, imminent and difficult to repair, or which risk to harm the general economic interest.

The Competition College has established in its decision of 19 June 2017 that there are *prima facie* indications that bodies of the Order of Pharmacists may have committed an infringement of the rules of competition by opposing the discount policy of Medicare-Market, its opening hours and the organisation of its pharmacy and parapharmacy activities.

The College has, however, considered that has not been established that Medicare-Market suffered a serious, imminent and difficult to repair prejudice, or that the general economic interest has been harmed in the sense of the provisions on interim measures, as Medicare-Market has been able to continue its commercial policy.

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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).