

The Competition College of the Belgian Competition Authority imposes a fine of 245,000 euros on “l’Ordre des pharmaciens – Orde der apothekers” for the practices that were subject of its decision of 28 May 2019

On 28 May 2019, the Belgian Competition Authority had adopted a decision condemning “l’Ordre des pharmaciens – Orde der apothekers” for attempting to hinder the MediCare-Market group’s development and imposing a fine of 1 million euros.

In a judgment of 2020, the Market Court annulled the decision of 28 May 2019 insofar as it set the amount of the fine at 1 million euros, while confirming the infringement and the very principle of imposing a fine on “l’Ordre des pharmaciens – Orde der apothekers”. The Market Court referred the case to the Competition College in order to determine the final amount of the fine in compliance with the legal maximum applicable in the former version of the law (article IV.70 CEL version 2013).

On the basis of the stipulation laid down in the judgment of the Court of Appeal of 8 January 2020, a College, otherwise composed, has adopted a decision imposing a fine of 245,000 euros on “l’Ordre des pharmaciens – Orde der apothekers”.

For further 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)