

**The Belgian Competition Authority imposes interim measures to remedy the disregard of the competition rules applicable to the development of a standard for Cloud applications**

The College of the Belgian Competition Authority has decided on 20 September 2022 that it is *prima facie* not unreasonable to conclude that the 2022 standard governing the development of registration systems for pigeon races (ETS) has been determined by the KBDB/RFCB (the Belgian Colombophile Federation) in breach of articles IV.1 and 2 of the Code of Economic Law (CEL) and 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

As a result, the College imposed interim measures on the KBDB/RFCB to ensure the transparent and non-discriminatory determination of the standard in question for the season 2023, mainly through further consultation with all ETS manufacturers and the organization of tests to allow for the timely homologation of compatible ETS.

This standard determines the technical requirements that electronic registration systems (ETS) must meet in order to be used in races and ensures compatibility between the ETS systems of different manufacturers. The 2022 standard pertained in particular to the introduction of Cloud-ETS, which enables flight times to be calculated and recorded via a cloud application.

The interim measures also provide that the KBDB/RFCB must inform within 5 working days after the communication of the College decision all its members in writing and publish a press release and a newsletter on its website, clarifying that all registration systems supplied by any manufacturers as homologated for the season 2020 and/or 2021 and/or 2022 may continue to be used up to one year after the entry into force of any new upcoming standard.

Similarly, the KBDB/RFCB must, within 5 working days of the communication of the College decision, publish the text of the interim measures in a visible way on the entry page of its website, until the announcement by the KBDB/RFCB of the entry into force of the new standard.

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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)