

## PRESS RELEASE

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### The Belgian Competition Authority confirms inspections in the press distribution sector

The Investigation and Prosecution Service of the Belgian Competition Authority confirms having conducted inspections at the premises of a company active in the press distribution sector, on the one hand, and of a press publisher, on the other hand, based on information about possible infringements of Article IV.1 of the Code of Economic Law and/or Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The information in question have led the Belgian Competition Authority to suspect that the visited companies may have entered into agreements or concerted practices regarding the service concession tender for the delivery of recognized newspapers and magazines in Belgium over the 2023-2027 period. It is also suspected that the companies may have exchanged commercially sensitive information related to the distribution of newspapers and magazines.

An inspection is a preliminary step in the investigation of restrictive practices and does not prejudice the outcome of the ongoing investigation. The duration of an investigation depends on several factors, including the degree of complexity of the case, the cooperation of the undertakings concerned and the exercise of the rights of defense.

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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)