

The Belgian Competition Authority sends a statement of objections to Ladbrokes and the French PMU concerning agreements for the distribution of betting products on French horse races in Belgium

The Investigation and Prosecution Service of the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) informed Ladbrokes and PMU (France) of its preliminary view that certain agreements for the distribution in Belgium of betting products on French races infringe competition rules, in particular Article IV.1 of the Code of Economic Law and Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The agreements at stake, which are no longer in force, allowed Ladbrokes to sell PMU's betting products on French races to Belgian customers. The Investigation and Prosecution Service considers that these agreements may have unduly restricted competition between Ladbrokes and PMU in the Belgian market.

The statement of objections is addressed to :

- Derby and Tiercé Ladbroke, now subsidiaries of the Entain group. They are active in the horse and sports betting sector and operate in Belgium under the trade name "Ladbrokes".
- PMU, an "economic interest group" under French law. PMU has a legal monopoly in France on the organisation and collecting of bets on horse races in physical locations. It owns the Belgian company Eurotiercé.

The statement of objections allows the companies concerned to give their views on the auditor's preliminary conclusions. The statement of objections does not prejudge the outcome of the procedure.

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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)