

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The Competition College finds pharmaceutical wholesaler CERP guilty of participation in a cartel and imposes a fine of 779,000 euros**

On 23 October 2023, the Competition College adopted a decision sanctioning Centre européen de répartition pharmaceutique SA ("CERP"), a pharmaceutical wholesale distributor, for participating in a cartel in violation of European and Belgian competition rules. As a wholesale distributor, CERP's main activity is the daily wholesale distribution of a full range of pharmaceutical products to pharmacists.

The anticompetitive agreement with other wholesale distributors involved setting the margin and agreeing on the detailed content of the services provided by the wholesalers in question for the distribution of pharmaceutical products under the so-called "Transfer Orders" model. Under this model, wholesalers execute and distribute orders placed by pharmacists for which preferential terms have been offered directly by pharmaceutical companies.

The College imposed a total fine of 778,777.93 euros on CERP as a sanction for its participation in the infringement. This amount includes a 50% reduction granted under the leniency program following CERP's acknowledgment of certain facts forming part of the infringement in question.

The decision of the College will be published in due course on the website of the Belgian Competition Authority.

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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)