

## **The Belgian Competition Authority launches a consultation on its draft guidelines for sustainability agreements**

Today, the Belgian Competition Authority (“BCA”) publishes for consultation draft guidelines on the application of competition law to sustainability agreements.

With these Guidelines, the BCA hopes to answer the call of market players for more clarity as to how they can engage in sustainability initiatives in general, and in the agricultural sector in particular, without infringing competition law.

The BCA chose to consolidate in one document - and in plain language - general rules applicable to all sustainability agreements and specific rules for the agricultural sector with a view to providing businesses with a global overview of the framework applicable to their agreements.

To make the rules more accessible, the BCA also included two appendices: a one-pager summarizing key rules, and a simplified decision tree allowing for a first self-assessment of any sustainability project. This draft also explains the way undertakings can interact with the BCA, including the possibility of receiving informal advice.

The consultation primarily aims to ensure that the draft guidelines answer the need of stakeholders, and to identify issues or concepts that may need to be added or developed.

The draft guidelines are available on our website (in [French](#) and [Dutch](#)). The consultation runs until 20 November 2025, with the aim of publishing a final version of the guidelines before the end of the year.

Contributions to the consultation can be communicated to the BCA via the following dedicated email address: [sustainability@bma-abc.be](mailto:sustainability@bma-abc.be).

### **For more 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)