

PRESS RELEASE

N° 21/2026
21 May 2026

Market Court upholds the Belgian Competition Authority's interim order suspending the International Cycling Union's maximum gear ratio standard

In a judgment of 20 May 2026, the Market Court (Brussels Court of Appeal) dismissed in its entirety the appeal filed by the International Cycling Union ("UCI") against the interim order of the Belgian Competition Authority ("BCA") of 9 October 2025, suspending the technical standard known as the "maximum gear ratio." This standard limits the maximum gear ratio permitted in professional road cycling events to a gear ratio of 54x11.

At the request of SRAM, a manufacturer of drivetrain systems for road racing bicycles that do not meet the requirements of the UCI maximum gear ratio standard, the BCA had ordered the suspension of the standard in question after finding that it amounted to a *prima facie* restriction of competition because it had not been adopted by means of a transparent, objective, and non-discriminatory procedure, and that there was a risk of serious and imminent harm that would be difficult to remedy, justifying such a suspension. The UCI subsequently challenged this decision before the Market Court.

In its judgment, the Market Court confirms the validity of the provisional measures ordered by the BCA and finds, in particular, that: (i) the BCA had jurisdiction to intervene in this case because of possible effects of the technical standard on the Belgian territory; (ii) the BCA rightly concluded that there was a *prima facie* restriction of competition due to the UCI's failures to apply transparent, objective, and non-discriminatory criteria when developing the standard; (iii) the UCI failed to justify why the maximum gear ratio standard was necessary and proportionate to achieve the objective of improving rider safety; and (iv) the BCA correctly assessed the existence of a risk of serious, imminent and irreparable harm to SRAM and the cycling teams equipped with its drivetrain systems.

In general, the Court emphasises that norms adopted by sports federations must comply with competition law requirements when they produce economic effects and need, in such a case, to be based on transparent, objective, and non-discriminatory criteria.

The Market Court's judgment is available on [the BCA's website](#), where the BCA decision is already accessible. The investigation of BCA's Prosecution and Investigation Service of the merits of the case remains in progress.

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