
*The enforcement against anticompetitive practices, namely cartels, has been the main priority for the AdC since 2017. This has led to a total amount of fines of €906 million, of which more than 80% **in horizontal practices, such as cartels.***

AdC Achievements 2021

Competition Enforcement

A total of more than **€120 million fines, in 8 sanctioning decisions and 4 statements of objections**, including hub-and-spoke, cartels and gun-jumping cases, in sectors such as health and public procurement.

Investigation and sanctioning of anticompetitive practices

- **8 sanctioning decisions**, namely:
 - Modelo e Continente, Pingo Doce, Auchan Retail, ITMP Alimentar (Intermarché), Super Bock and two individuals for **hub-and-spoke**, with a fine totaling €92.8 million.
 - Blueotter and EGEO sanctioned with a fine of € 2.9 million for implementing a **non-competitive agreement** in the market for the provision of services to **waste management** systems in Portugal.
 - Natus Medical Incorporated fined with €100,000 for restricting competition in the distribution of **essential medical devices** in the Portuguese market.
 - National Association of Land Surveyors (ANT, in Portuguese) sanctioned with €50,000 for restricting competition in the market of **land surveying services**, by **fixing prices** for these services.
 - 3 sanctioning decisions for **gun-jumping** were issued leading to total fines of €395,000 imposed to Fidelidade – Sociedade Gestora de Organismos de Investimento Coletivo, S.A., SFI Group Gestión de Participaciones Minoritarias and AOC Health GmbH.
- **4 statements of objections**:
 - In **health**, five private hospitals and their business association for anticompetitive agreement.
 - In **security and surveillance services**, seven companies for taking part in a cartel in public tenders.

- In the **labor market**, for no-poach, the Portuguese Professional Football League and 31 sports companies.
- In the **large retail distribution**, four supermarket chains and a supplier of food, home and personal care products for hub-and-spoke.
- **4 unannounced inspections**

Merger Control

- **53 merger decisions.**
- **3 sanctioning decisions for gun-jumping.**
- **4 investigations for gun-jumping.**
- **15 prior assessment** procedures.

Competition Advocacy

Over 25 sector inquiries and opinions on a wide range of sectors, of which:

- Best practices in awarding **public transport service** contracts;
- Sector inquiry and monitoring of recommendations for the **FinTech sector**;
- Comments to the Portuguese central bank's draft **Banking Code**;
- Report on competition on **hemodialysis care provision** in Portugal;
- Competition principles for the implementation of the **economic recovery strategy**;
- AdC comments to Draft Law on the creation of the possibility of setting maximum marketing margins for **simple fuels and LPG in bottles**;
- Report and Best Practice Guide on **anticompetitive agreements in labor markets**;
- Call for information on **Digital ecosystems, Big Data and algorithms**;
- Opinion on the draft law that approves the **European Communications Law** and transposes the European Code of Electronic Communications.

AdC Strategy for Public Procurement

- **Combatting Bid-Rigging** outreach initiative aims to **raise awareness of the signs of collusion** in public procurement and promote more competition-friendly tender design with over **2600 participants** since 2016, focusing on sectors with large volumes of public procurement and the main municipalities (Lisbon, Porto, Funchal, Ponta Delgada).

Communication & Outreach

- **Open webinar and podcast series *CompCast – Competition Talks*** on competition law and economics (in 2021: Patrick Rey, Christos Genakos, William E. Kovacic, Tommaso Valletti, Oles Andriychuk, Alison Jones)
- **AdC Competition Policy Award** for academic research in Competition Law, 2021 edition, is ongoing.
- **AdC News:** monthly newsletter in Portuguese and in English.
- Launch of AdC's **new visual identity and website** (October 2021).

Main international activity

- **European Competition Day 2021** organized by the AdC, within the context of the Portuguese Presidency of the **Council of the EU**, in Lisbon in June 2021.
- Portuguese and Spanish Competition Authorities carried out **simultaneous unannounced inspections** at companies providing commercial and financial information services on businesses for possible anti-competitive behavior in Portugal and Spain (June 2021).
- Organization of the **Ibero-American Forum on Competition** (September 2021), together with the Spanish CNMC, alongside the OECD-IDB Latin American and Caribbean Competition Forum.
- **7th Meeting of the Lusophone Competition Network** (September 2021), with the participation of 8 countries (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and East Timor).
- **1st bilateral meeting with UOKiK** (Polish Competition Authority) (October 2021).
- **2021 ICN Cartel Workshop** (Lisbon, 17-19 November).