

The Belgian Competition Authority reviews in an *amicus curiae* a sponsorship contract between the Royal Belgian Billiard Federation and a supplier of billiard balls

In April 2021, the Enterprise Court of Louvain requested written observations (*amicus curiae*) from the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) on the compatibility with the competition rules of the award of a sponsorship contract by the Royal Belgian Billiard Federation to a supplier of billiard balls. The contract stipulated that the company was the official and exclusive supplier of billiard balls for the Belgian multi-discipline championships.

In the *amicus curiae* filed with the court at the end of August 2021, the BCA pointed out that a sports federation holding a dominant position in the market for the organisation and exploitation of competitions is obliged to organise an objective, non-discriminatory and transparent in-competition procedure when it wants to award an exclusive sponsorship contract to a particular manufacturer of billiard balls (Article IV.2 CEL and 102 TFEU). Furthermore, the BCA examined the exclusive sponsorship agreement under the provisions of Articles IV.1 of the Code of Economic Law (CEL) and 101 TFEU. In a judgment dated 30 November 2021, the Enterprise Court finally found an infringement of Articles IV.1 and IV.2 CEL and 101 and 102 TFEU.

The Enterprise Court's request is based on Article IV.88 CEL, which allows courts and tribunals to ask the BCA for an opinion regarding the application of competition law.

You can find here the link to the [amicus curiae to the BCA and the judgment of the Enterprise Court.](#)

For more information you may contact:

Yves Van Gerven

General Counsel

Tel: +32 (2) 277 62 57

E-mail: yves.vangerven@bma-abc.be

Website: www.belgiancompetition.be

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)