The CNMC has issued 171 million euros in fines to 21 automobile manufacturing and distributing companies in Spain

On 28/07/2015, The CNMC has issued a total of 171 million euros in fines to 21 companies present in the distribution and marketing of motor vehicles market and/or the provision of after-sales services throughout Spain, as well as two consulting companies, for practices contrary to the Competition Protection Act. The CNMC considers the practices to constitute a cartel (S/0482/13).

The CNMC considers it proven that there was a single continued infraction of article 1 of the Competition Protection Act and of article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which consisted of the systematic exchange of confidential and commercially sensitive information, and which covered almost all of the activities carried out by the sanctioned companies via their distribution and after-sales Network.

The exchanges of information were structured around three areas or exchange forums, although it was all part of a complex agreement, developed, depending on the companies, from Feb. 2006 to Aug. 2013.

From the investigations carried out by the CNMC in July 2013, documentation was obtained which proved the cartel, complemented by the information provided by SEAT in its request for exemption from payment of the fine.

As a result, 23 operators have been fined. Nevertheless, the CNMC has waived payment of the corresponding fine for infringing conduct for SEAT, S.A., as well as Volkswagen Audi España, S.A. and Porsche Ibérica, S.A., all belonging to the same group, as they had applied for the Leniency Program.

The CNMC resolved to impose the following fines (€):

Automóviles Citroën España, S.A: 14.768 million
B&M Automóviles España, S.A.: 776,012
BMW Ibérica, S.A.U : 8 million
Chevrolet España, S.A.U.: 138,580
Chrysler España, S.L.: 265
Fiat Group Automobiles Spain, S.A.: 6.968 million
Ford España, S.L.: 20.234 million
General Motors España, S.L.U.: 22.827 million
Honda Motor Europe Limited sucursal en España, S.L.: 609,325
Hyundai Motor España, S.L.U.: 4.415 million
Kia Motor Iberia, S.L.: 2.074 million
Mazda Automóviles España, S.A.: 656,390
Mercedes Benz España, S.A.: 2.379 million
Nissan Ibería, S.A.: 3.157 million
Peugeot España, S.A.: 15.722 million
Renault España Comercial, S.A.: 18.203 million
Snap-on Business Solutions, S.L.: 52,785
Toyota España, S.L.: 8.657 million
Urban Science España, S.L.U.: 70,039
Volvo Car España, S.A.: 1.706 million

Authority:
Spain - Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia

Categories:
Enforcement and Cases

Tags:
Cartel
vehicles market
Leniency

Disclaimer

This publication is a compilation of contributions from national competition authorities of the European Union and the Competition Directorate General of the European Commission (“the Authorities”). Information provided in this publication is for information purposes only and does not constitute professional or legal advice. The content of this publication is not binding and does not reflect the official position of any Authority. Neither any Authority nor any person acting on its behalf is responsible for the use which might be made of information contained in this publication.

© European Union, 2015. Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged. This publication may contain links to other websites. Linked information is subject to use conditions, disclaimers, copyright and any other conditions and limitations governing linked websites or otherwise applicable.
Source URL: