AMO Initiates Proceedings in Bid Rigging Case in HealthCare Sector

On 29 September 2014, the Cartel Division of the Antimonopoly Office (AMO) initiated administrative proceedings against three undertakings for their suspected participation in a cartel agreement relating to public procurement regarding the construction of a health facility financed with EU funds for a total of € 26,300,000.

Parties to the proceedings include two undertakings active in the construction sector that submitted bids, and an undertaking that provided services related to the public procurement to the contracting authority, University Hospital in Košice.

The AMO obtained information from a criminal investigation indicating that the two construction undertakings may have agreed on the winner of the tender, while the undertaking providing procurement services facilitated implementation of the agreement.

Such conduct may constitute an infringement of Article 4 of Act No. 136/2001 Coll. on Protection of Competition as amended, and Article 101 TFEU, both prohibiting agreements restricting competition.

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Categories:
Enforcement and Cases

Tags:
bid rigging in construction sector

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