

## THE COMPETITION COUNCIL OPENS INVESTIGATION ON THE MARKET OF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF CEMENT FROM ROMANIA

The Competition Council launched an investigation regarding an alleged anti-competitive agreement between HOLCIM (ROMANIA) S.A., CRH CIMENT (ROMANIA) S.A. and HEIDELBERGCEMENT ROMÂNIA S.A. achieved by dividing the market production and marketing of cement from Romania, from the perspective of market share and/or products offered on the market, the limitation or control of production, marketing, technical development or investment, correlated with the possible coordination of the pricing policy of the companies involved since 2010.

In the course of this investigation, the Competition Council carried out dawn raids at the headquarters of the investigated companies, and the seized documents are in the analysis of the competition authority within the specific investigation procedure.

In the situation in which the Competition Council finds the infringement of the competition rules, the involved companies risk fines of up to 10% of turnover. However, companies that cooperate with the competition authority in the leniency program may obtain immunity from fines or substantial reduction of fines.

Dawn raids represent an important step within the investigation procedures of an alleged anticompetitive behaviour. Conducting unannounced inspections do not mean that the competition authority pre-decided as regards the companies' guilt.

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