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The Competition Council has opened an investigation on meal tickets market

Competition Council carried out dawn raids at the premises and branches of the first three companies issuing meal tickets: Edenred, Sodexo Pass and Cheque Dejeuner. The inspections took place within the investigation opened by the Competition Council regarding a possible agreement between the companies in order to eliminate from the market two smaller competitors, Romticket and Ascendi. The investigation on the issuing, management and marketing meal tickets was initiated following a complaint received by the competition authority

The nominal value of meal tickets is the same for all beneficiaries, respectively 9 lei, established and updated periodically based on law, by order of the Minister of Labour, Family and Social Protection.

If the Competition Council finds the infringement of the competition rules, the companies risk fines of up to 10% of turnover. However, companies that cooperate with competition authorities in the leniency program can obtain immunity from fines or a substantial reduction of fines. We recall that in September 2009, Romanian authorities adopted new guidelines on competition policy leniency that apply both to horizontal agreements and serious vertical restraints.

Competition Law (no. 21/1996) forbids any express or tacit agreements between undertakings or associations of undertakings which have as their object or effect distortion of competition.

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