Belgian Competition Authority

PRESS RELEASE

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The Belgian Competition Authority launches a public consultation on a draft guidance on the application of competition rules to public procurement

The Belgian Competition Authority ("BCA") is launching a public consultation today on a draft guidance whose purpose is to offer public buyers a practical instrument enabling them to better identify risks of competition law infringements. This specifically concerns bid-rigging throughout the entire lifecycle of a public procurement procedure. The draft guide provides recommendations and suggests a series of best practices to adopt in order to prevent such conduct.

This initiative forms part of the BCA's ongoing efforts to raise awareness and strengthen cooperation with public buyers. As first-line actors, public buyers play a key role in the early detection of unusual behaviours or patterns that may indicate potential anticompetitive practices. The draft guide contains concrete recommendations covering the main stages of public procurement procedures, aiming to reduce the risk of competition distortions. It also sets out a procedure to follow in case of suspected infringements and outlines the options for exchanges with the BCA, including on an informal basis.

The consultation aims to ensure that the draft guide meets the expectations of all stakeholders and to identify any missing elements or areas requiring further clarification. The contributions received will support the refinement and finalisation of the guide.

The draft guide is available on the BCA's website: Draft guidance on competition rules in public procurement. The consultation is open until **28 February 2026**. Contributions may be submitted to the BCA via the dedicated email address: procurement@bma-abc.be

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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)