



EU AND COMPETITION LAW

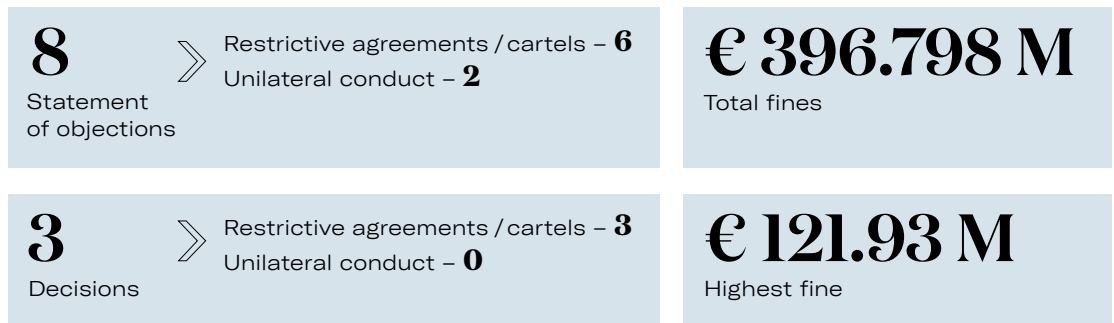
Portuguese Competition Authority – 2020

Some facts and figures that set out the landscape of merger control, antitrust enforcement and competition litigation in Portugal in 2020.

Merger control



Antitrust enforcement



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Interim Measures

The PCA ordered the Portuguese Professional Football League to suspend its decision preventing teams in the First and Second Football Leagues from signing players that have unilaterally terminated their contracts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Competition Court judgments

Only one Competition Court ruling this year: the Competition Court upheld the PCA's decision to fine EDP and Sonae for a market sharing agreement: However, it reduced the total fine by 10% (from €38.3 million to €34.4 million).

"The first ever opt-out class actions were filed in late 2020 – both seeking very large sums based on infringement decisions by both the European Commission and the PCA."

Private enforcement of competition law

Class Actions

The first ever opt-out class actions were filed in late 2020 – both seeking very large sums based on infringement decisions by both the European Commission and the PCA.

Ius Omnibus v. Mastercard

The first ever opt-out class action in Portugal was filed on 2 December 2020 against Mastercard by Ius Omnibus, a consumer protection association, seeking damages of €400 million in connection with the Commission's decisions regarding Mastercard's interchange fees (the *Mastercard II* cases of 2019).

Ius Omnibus v. Super Bock

The second opt-out class action was filed on 14 December 2020 against local brewer Super Bock by Ius Omnibus following on from the PCA's €24 million fine of Super Bock for RPM. Ius Omnibus is seeking damages of €401 million.

Litigation

Domestic litigation following on from the Commission's decision in the *Trucks* case continued at pace before the Competition Court, with the first hearing having started in the last quarter of 2020. ■