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EU Competition

The European Commission is proposing *class action* suits, for consumers, when they are provided with flawed products or services. [Click here](#) for the Report. Class actions remain rare in European competition cases. However, class action suits have been lodged in the UK (for example, five customers lodged a damages claim against three carbon and graphite producers for price-fixing allegations) and Germany (for example, a German court has granted cement buyers the right to file a €114 million lawsuit against six cement producers for alleged price-fixing).

The European Commission has sent a Statement of Objections to a number of undertakings (including Belgium's Glaverbel and the UK's Pilkington) regarding their alleged role in a cartel for flat glass. [Click here](#) for further information.

UK Competition

[Click here](#) for the submission from the Competition Commission to the House of Lords Select Committee on the role of economic regulators.

The [Competition Appeal Tribunal](#) has found in favour of the OFT in a case relating to price fixing and market sharing in the double glazing industry.

The Consumer Association (on behalf of some 130 individual consumers) has lodged a claim for damages against JJB Sports at the CAT. [Click here](#) for further information. Section 47B of the Competition Act 1998 provides that consumer bodies can bring representative damages claims before the CAT.

Competition: Member States

Czech Republic: The Czech Republic's competition authority has imposed a record fine against RWE Transgas for abuse of dominance. [Click here](#) for further information and scroll down to the relevant article.

France: The Competition Council has fined two cement manufacturers for limiting the supply of cement to the island of Corsica. [Click here](#) for further information.

Germany: The Bundeskartellamt has issued a new guideline on negligible horizontal and vertical anticompetitive agreements between competitors. [Click here](#) for further information.

EU Courts

The ECJ will tomorrow decide on the British Airways appeal against its fine for abusing its dominant position in the UK air travel services market. [Click here](#) for further information.

Four Austrian banks have appealed the Court of First Instance's "Lombard Club" cartel ruling.

Financial Services

The European Parliament has today approved a report, clearing the way for new prudential rules in M&A in financial services. [Click here](#) for further information.

The United Kingdom "thin cap" legislation may be applied only to purely artificial tax arrangements. [Click here](#) for further information.

The Commission adopted supplementary measures on company transparency. [Click here](#) for further information.

Communications/IT / Media

Cisac, a group of music royalty collection societies has offered to allow broadcasters pan-European copyright licenses. [Click here](#) for further information.

The Notice relating to the initiation of proceedings in the [Sony/BMG case](#), has been published.

Other industries

Postal services and supermarkets

[Prior notification](#) of a concentration (Case COMP/M.4583 — Deutsche Post/Metro/GS1 Germany/JV).

Engineering and construction

[Prior notification](#) of a concentration (Case COMP/M.4508 — Alstom UK/Balfour Beatty/JV).

Casino entertainment facilities

[Prior notification](#) of a concentration (Case COMP/M.4610 — TPG V/Apollo/Harrah's).

Food

The European Commission has extended its review of French retailer Carrefour's acquisition of Ahold Polska by ten working days, following a referral by the Polish competition authorities.¹

1 MLex 13 March 2007