

## Bearings

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In March 2014, the European Commission (“EC”) fined a number of European and Japanese producers of car and truck bearings a total of €953 million in a cartel that operated in the European Economic Area (“EEA”) between 2004 and 2011.

### **The Cartel**

The EC found that two European companies (SKF and Schaeffler) and four Japanese companies (JTEKT, NSK, NFC and NTN with its French subsidiary NTN-SNR) colluded to secretly coordinate their pricing strategy vis-à-vis automotive customers in the whole European Economic Area.

The cartel concerned automotive bearings, used by car, truck and car part manufacturers to reduce friction between moving parts inside a vehicle. Cars and trucks contain numerous bearings, for example wheel bearings, bearings for gearbox, transmission, alternator or air conditioning systems.