

Bearings

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Related Practice Areas: **Competition Disputes**

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.