

On 20 April 2007, the Commission decided to initiate antitrust proceedings in case COMP/B1/39315 – ENI within the meaning of Article 11(6) of Council Regulation No 1/2003 and Article 2(1) of Commission Regulation No 773/2004.

The proceedings were opened with a view to adopting a decision in application of Chapter III of Council Regulation No 1/2003 and concern capacity hoarding and strategic underinvestment in the transmission system leading to the foreclosure of competitors and harm for competition and customers in one or more supply markets in Italy. These suspected practices, constituting possible infringements of Article 82 EC, are allegedly engaged in by ENI S.p.A., its subsidiaries and companies under their control, including Trans Austria Gasleitung GmbH, Trans Europa Naturgas Pipeline GmbH & Co. KG, ENI Deutschland S.p.A. and Eni Gas Transport International SA.

The initiation of proceedings does not imply that the Commission has conclusive proof of an infringement. It only signifies that the Commission will further investigate the case as a matter of priority.