

On 16 May 2008, the Commission decided to initiate antitrust proceedings in case COMP/39.316 – GDF 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 foreclosure of downstream supply markets for natural gas in France, through, in particular, a combination of long-term transport capacity reservations and a network of import agreements, as well as through underinvestment in import infrastructure capacity. These suspected practices, constituting possible infringements of Articles 81 and 82 of the EC Treaty and Articles 53 and 54 of the EEA Agreement, are allegedly engaged in by Gaz de France SA, its subsidiaries and companies under their control.

The initiation of proceedings does not imply that the Commission has proof of an infringement – it only signifies that the Commission is dealing with the case as a matter of priority.