

On 13 December 2010, the European Commission decided to extend the scope of an investigation into Slovak Telekom's behaviour on broadband internet access markets, to include its parent company Deutsche Telekom. On 8 April 2009, the Commission had opened proceedings to investigate whether Slovak Telekom's behaviour may prevent or hinder competition on broadband internet access markets in the Slovak Republic in breach of Article 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The suspected infringements concern possible refusal to deal, margin squeeze and other exclusionary behaviour with respect to wholesale local loop access, other wholesale broadband access services and retail broadband access services. The opening of proceedings is based on Article 11(6) of the Antitrust Regulation (Council Regulation No 1/2003) and Article 2(1) of its implementing Regulation (Commission Regulation No 773/2004).

The extension of the proceedings to Deutsche Telekom is to establish whether Deutsche Telekom may have been involved in one or more of the suspected infringements or may be held liable for one or more of them.

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