

On 21 November 2013 the Commission initiated proceedings in case AT.39850 - Container Shipping against several container shipping companies within the meaning of Article 11(6) of Council Regulation No 1/2003 and Article 2(1) of Regulation No 773/2004.

The Commission intends to investigate the practice of the companies involved to make regular public announcements of price increase intentions through press releases on their websites and in the specialised trade press. These announcements are made several times a year and contain the amount of increase and the date of implementation, which is generally similar for all announcing companies.

The Commission has concerns that this practice may allow the companies to signal future price intentions to each other and may harm competition and customers on the market for container shipping transport services on routes to and from Europe. The Commission will now investigate whether this behaviour amounts to a concerted practice in breach of Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and of Article 53 of the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement.

The opening of proceedings means that the Commission will examine the case as a matter of priority and does not prejudge the outcome of the investigation.