

On 23 November 2018, the Commission decided to initiate antitrust proceedings in case AT.40618 Airline ticket distribution (Sabre) 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 terms in Sabre's agreements with airlines and travel agents which may restrict the ability of airlines and travel agents to use alternative suppliers of ticket distribution services. The Commission is investigating suspected infringements within the meaning of Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Article 53 of the EEA Agreement arising from these terms in Sabre's agreements with airlines and travel agents.

The initiation of proceedings does not signify that the Commission has made a definitive finding of an infringement but merely signifies that the Commission will deal with the case as a matter of priority.