

Antitrust: Commission adopts amending decision on Spanish raw tobacco cartel

The European Commission has adopted an amending decision concerning the [Spanish raw tobacco cartel](#). In 2004, the Commission fined five companies active in the Spanish raw tobacco processing market a total of €20 million for colluding on the prices paid to, and the quantities bought from, tobacco growers in Spain. In the 2004 decision, a fine of €1 822 500 was imposed on World Wide Tobacco España (WWTE). Its parent companies Standard Commercial Corporation, Standard Commercial Tobacco Co. Inc. and Trans-continental Leaf Tobacco Corporation Ltd. were held jointly and severally liable for this fine. In [March 2011](#), the EU General Court partially annulled the 2004 decision as regards WWTE and fixed the fine for the company at €1 579 500, which amounts to a reduction of €243 000. However, the parent companies of WWTE, in their separate appeals before the [General Court](#) and before the [Court of Justice](#), failed to obtain the same reduction as they had not raised the same pleas as WWTE. The Commission has adopted today's amending decision to be able to reimburse the reduction of €243 000 to Alliance One International Inc., the legal successor of WWTE's parent companies. The amending decision will be made available under the case number [38238](#) in the public case register on the Commission's [competition](#) website. For more information on the Commission's action against cartels, see the [cartels website](#)