

- **Sweden: The Swedish Competition Authority institutes Proceedings against Bus Company Cartel in Package Tour Sector**

According to the Swedish Competition Authority, two bus companies -Ölvemarks and Scandorama - have infringed both national and European competition provisions by having colluded on prices. On 8 December 2010, the Authority instituted proceedings regarding the imposition of fines totalling over SEK 13 million (approximately € 1 460 000).

During its investigation the Swedish Competition Authority found that the companies agreed on prices for package tours on coaches between 2007 and 2009. They also agreed to restrict the supply of tours, and also to divide the market between themselves.

According to the summons application now lodged by the Swedish Competition Authority to the Stockholm City Court, the Authority is requesting that the Court decides that the companies must pay SEK 13 200 000 in fines (administrative fines). A request of SEK 9 200 000 (approx. € 1 033 000) has been made against Ölvemarks Holiday Aktiebolag and a request of SEK 4 000 000 (approx. € 449 000) against Scandorama AB. Both companies concede the material facts of the case, but consider that this cooperation was not unauthorised. The companies have cooperated with the Swedish Competition Authority throughout the entire investigation. It remains for the court to decide how the companies' agreements are to be judged as being illegal.

"Reaching an agreement on prices is not permitted according to the rules on competition. This kind of agreement results in consumers incurring higher prices and a poorer range of products," says Dan Sjöblom, Director-General of the Swedish Competition Authority. "It is important to give clear signs that competitors should not make deals on prices and other terms of sale. I look forward to a decision by the City Court in this respect."

See further: http://www.kkv.se/t/NewsPage____6937.aspx