# Consumer product and services rating systems: the Autorité de la concurrence provides guidance in the light of competition rules

Published on January 09, 2025

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Last February, the *Autorité de la concurrence* decided to start inquires *ex officio* to analyse the competitive functioning of the rating systems sector, which aims to provide consumers with information on the sustainability-related characteristics of consumer products and services.

As part of the inquiry, the *Autorité* then launched a public consultation in April 2024 and consulted a large number of stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in the development or operation of rating systems: rating system publishers, companies and civil society players (NGOs and consumer associations).

In this opinion, the *Autorité* finds that rating systems are booming in many sectors. Although the systems cover a wide range of sectors, products and services and are therefore extremely diverse, all the systems share the same objective of providing a graded assessment of a product or service in order to make a range of information available to consumers.

In particular, the *Autorité* stresses that, by providing simplified, educational information to consumers on sustainability-related characteristics, the systems meet certain consumer expectations, encourage companies to innovate, and can help to stimulate competition in the product or service markets assessed.

In this opinion, and without prejudice to the European Commission Guidelines on Horizontal Cooperation Agreements, the *Autorité* provides guidance to help

stakeholders understand rating systems in the light of competition rules.

**PRESS RELEASE OF 9 JANUARY 2025**

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