

# Cinema: the Autorité issues an opinion on a proposed agreement between distributors to stagger the release schedule of films

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## Cinema

### Covid-19 crisis exit

In its opinion, the Autorité considers that a temporary agreement on film release dates could, under certain conditions, be exempted given the congestion situation created by the Covid-19 crisis.

#### Who referred it?

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The **Médiateur du cinéma** referred the case to the Autorité in February 2021, having itself been asked for an opinion by 3 actors of the sector:

- l'Agence pour le développement régional du cinéma ('the ADRC')
- l'Association française des cinémas d'art et d'essai ('the AFCAE')
- le Bureau de liaison des organisations du cinéma ('the BLOC')

#### Envisaged consultation

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Distributors are considering a **temporary agreement on the film release schedule** when cinemas reopen in 2021.

The film sector indeed anticipates an **unprecedented congestion of screens when cinemas reopen**: a stock already estimated at 400 films in mid-March 2021. That is to say a rate of **50 to 60 unseen films per week** against the usual 14 films.

#### A grid of analysis to enlighten the actors

The Autorité considers that such an agreement could be implemented, under certain conditions and on an exceptional basis, given the Covid-19 crisis circumstances.

It offers a general grid of analysis to help them identify the lines not to cross to avoid entering an anticompetitive agreement.



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Autorité  
de la concurrence



## Unprecedented cinema screen congestion: why is the film stock so high?



### PRESS RELEASE OF 16 APRIL 2021

Following a referral by the Médiateur du cinema, the Autorité issues an opinion on a consultation project for distributors on a film release schedule when cinemas reopen

[See the press release](#)