The Fleury Michon group is fined 100,000 euros for obstructing an investigation

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On 16 July 2020, by decision 20-D-09[1] (see press release), the *Autorité* handed out fines worth 93 million euros a cartel in the ham and cold meat (charcuterie) sector. The manufacturers involved (the "cold meat manufacturers") worked in concert to buy the pieces of ham at a lower price from the slaughterers and / or also agreed on the price increases for the pork products that they intended to practice with the brands of mass-market retailers, for their retailers' brand or "economy products".

Among the offending companies was the Fleury Michon group, fined 14.7 million euros, including 8 million euros for the company Fleury Michon Charcuterie, author of the obstruction practice. During the investigation, it appeared that the group had not informed the investigation services of an internal restructuring operation and the removal of the company Fleury Michon Charcuterie, one of the authors of the practices, to whom the grievances had been addressed.

By its behaviour, the Fleury Michon group could have compromised the effectiveness of the investigation services' action, by preventing them from identifying and monitoring with precision the development of legal persons to whom it was appropriate to impute and notify grievances.

As a result, the *Autorité* imposed handed out a fine worth 100,000 euros.

[1] *The decision is being appealed to the Paris Court of Appeal.*

PRESS RELEASE

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See the press release