

Opening of Proceedings - AT.40721– Microsoft Teams

On 27/07/2023, the European Commission has initiated formal antitrust proceedings against Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd and its parent company Microsoft Corporation for a potential breach of EU competition rules. The initiation of proceedings is based on Article 11(6) of the Antitrust Regulation (Council Regulation No 1/2003) and Article 2(1) of its implementing Regulation (Commission Regulation No 773/2004).

The Commission intends to investigate, in particular, the potential tying or bundling of Microsoft Teams since its launch in the EEA with other Microsoft products, for example through the inclusion of Teams in Microsoft's Office 365 and/or Microsoft 365 suites, as well as potential restrictions to the integration and interoperability of third-party products with Microsoft's products, to the advantage of Microsoft Teams.

These conducts, if proven, may constitute an infringement of Article 102 of the Treaty and Article 54 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area.

The initiation of proceedings does not signify that the Commission has made a definitive finding of an infringement but merely signifies that the Commission will deal with the case as a matter of priority.