

EUROPEAN HIGHLIGHT | 21.11.2018

EUROPEAN COMMISSION RELEASES ROADMAP ON REVIEW OF VERTICAL BLOCK EXEMPTION REGULATION

The European Commission is seeking comments on a roadmap defining the scope of the evaluation of [Regulation 330/2010](#) (the “**Vertical Block Exemption Regulation**”). This Regulation exempts certain agreements and practices from the EU’s general competition rules and will expire on 22 May 2022.

The Vertical Block Exemption Regulation is important for ADDE and its members because it governs the competition law aspects of distribution agreements for all of the EEA countries. It deals with matters such as vertical price fixing, parallel trade, online distribution and non-compete obligations. All of these matters are of daily relevance to distribution channels active in Europe.

The purpose of the evaluation is to gather evidence on the functioning of the Vertical Block Exemption Regulation (and the relevant Guidelines) in order to allow the Commission to determine whether it should let the Regulation lapse, prolong its duration or revise it in order to take proper account of new market developments since its adoption in 2010, notably the increased importance of online sales and the emergence of new market players such as online platforms.

As a first step in the evaluation process, companies and individuals are invited to submit comments on the evaluation roadmap. This comes ahead of a formal 12-week consultation to be launched early next year, a “stakeholder workshop” at the end of 2019, and discussions with antitrust watchdogs around Europe.

We have attached the relevant roadmap to this email for your convenience. Feedback can be submitted on [this website](#) until 6 December 2018.

Our recommendation would be not to comment on the roadmap itself, but to be ready to provide substantive stakeholder input during the first months of 2019.

We hope this information is useful. You should not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or require further information.

Kind regards,

Sarah – Evi