



Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of the Union competition rules to the agricultural sector

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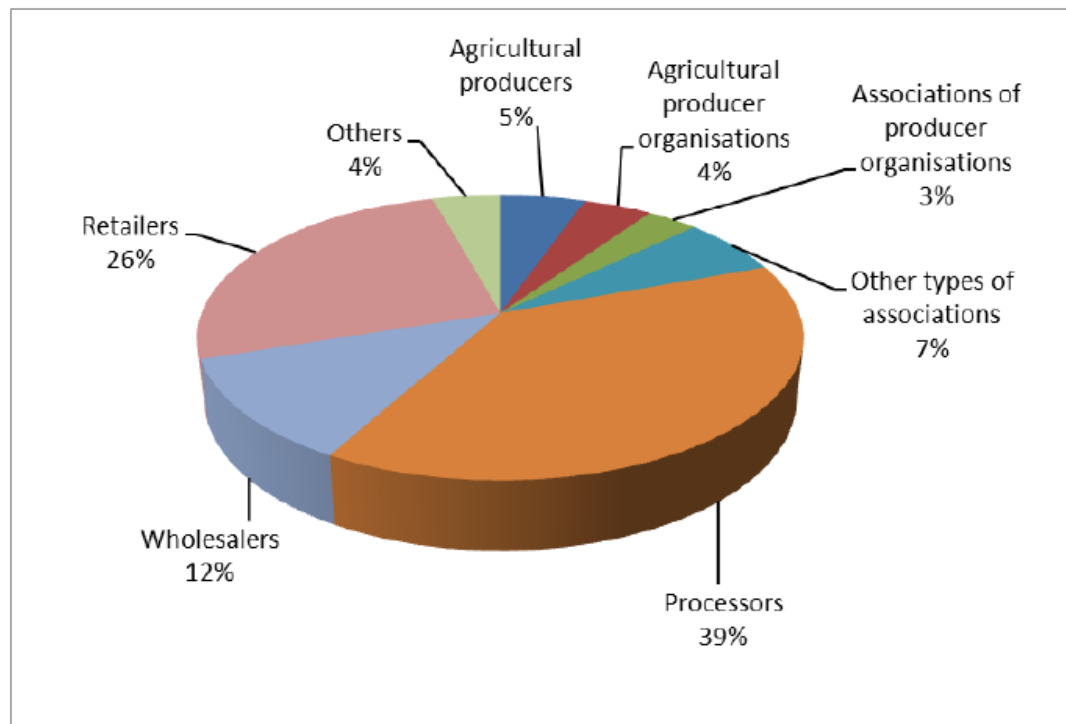
Results of the Report

- Nearly 170 antitrust investigations in 2012-2017
- Most frequent infringement type were price agreements
- Most investigations were triggered by complaints from other operators (largest group of complainants=farmers)



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Processors are the entities most frequently investigated and fined












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A new type of cases: collective protectionist initiatives



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Known national initiatives to **restrict imports** from other Member States

	milk
	beef
	chicken
	pork
	vegetables
	fruit
	flour



Competition



Competition law enforcement can help farmers

- European competition authorities have stopped and sanctioned practices employed by large buyers that collectively aimed to reduce prices paid to farmers.
- Competition enforcement has also helped farmers improve their conditions with some cooperatives.
- Farmers were the single largest group of complainants

A deeper look into POs

Large-scale in-depth study on POs and APOs in arable crops, beef and veal and olive oil:

- 2/3 of POs and APOs carry out contractual negotiations
- Virtually all those POs and APOs carry out at least one of the efficiency-enhancing activities
- Most common efficiency-enhancing activities are quality control, distribution/transport and procurement of inputs
- POs consider that these activities improve their position in negotiations with buyers



Thank you for your attention!

Background: Guidance and monitoring

- European competition authorities have **provided guidance to farmers, other operators and governments** on how to interpret and apply competition law in the sector
- European competition authorities have also monitored the agricultural sector and conducted sector inquiries into the functioning of the supply chain, with a particular focus on issues like the transmission of prices in the chain and the balance of bargaining power between farmers and other levels of the chain.