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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.12.2025)

If the Commission receives information that indicates the existence of an infringement of Article 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which prohibits the abuse of a dominant position, it can take action to put an end to such an abuse in accordance with its standard procedures. The Commission does not possess information pointing to practices to that effect in relation to the technical inspection sector.

As a general matter, the Commission sees the Single Market as critical for competitiveness and vital to deliver on the actions in the Competitiveness Compass. In this context, removing remaining barriers and expanding the Single Market enhances market access, not least for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), such as of small technical inspection companies. In this respect, on 21 May 2025, the Commission adopted the Single Market Strategy, for making the Single Market simple, seamless and strong¹.

Further, State aid rules provide many possibilities to support SMEs, in particular when they envisage cross-border expansion. On the basis of the State aid General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER), Member States can implement aid schemes without prior notification and approval by the Commission. Under the GBER, aid can be awarded to SMEs for instance to support their training actions, the use of consultancy or innovation services and their participation in fairs

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1274.