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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the Commission
(10.2.2026)

1. Article 4(5) of Directive (EU) 1/2019 recognises that national competition authorities have the power to set priorities in applying Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The decision to investigate a practice lies within the discretion of each national competition authority, that exercises it case by case taking account of all relevant circumstances. These include the specific characteristics of the conduct, the dynamics of particular markets and available resources. These considerations may lead to different conducts or types of conduct being investigated and prosecuted by different national competition authorities.

2. To ensure the consistent application of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU in specific cases, Article 11(4) of Regulation (EC) No. 1/2003 provides that national competition authorities shall consult the Commission before adopting a decision, *inter alia*, requiring that an infringement be brought to an end, and make appropriate efforts to ensure the consistent application of Union law. This mechanism applies to all decisions finding an infringement of Article 101 and/or 102 TFEU.

3. The current system ensures the uniform interpretation of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU through the mechanism envisaged in Article 11(4) of Regulation (EC) No. 1/2003, as well as through that envisaged in Article 11(3) of that regulation, pursuant to which national competition authorities shall inform the Commission of their first investigative measure in a timely manner. In addition, in light of its responsibility to safeguard the consistent application of EU competition law, the Commission regularly engages with national competition authorities through bilateral and multilateral meetings to ensure coordination of their respective enforcement actions.