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Gun-jumping: The EU General Court calls the shots

11 October 2021 | News

The EU General Court has issued the latest judgment in a suite of hard-line anti-gun-jumping cases – effectively confirming the European Commission’s 2018 decision imposing a record fine on Altice for breaching EU merger control rules (albeit with a slight adjustment to the level of fine imposed). Over recent years, EU authorities and courts have adopted a more robust approach to the enforcement of the procedural rules in their merger control regimes, as a result of which it is more important than ever for companies to familiarise themselves and comply with the nuanced distinctions drawn between legitimate and illegitimate conduct – or risk facing significant financial penalties.

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