



PORTUGAL

Legal Shots

by SRS LEGAL

● European Union & Competition

Guidelines on the Settlement Procedure Published by the Portuguese Competition Authority

The PCA's guidelines are meant to clarify the settlement procedure, which allows a reduction of fines for competition infringements.

- The Competition Authority has recently published their Guidelines on the Settlement Procedure, one of the final steps of the reviewing process of various regulatory acts and guidelines the PCA had been committed to under the latest amendment to the Competition Act.
- The Guidelines aim to clarify the method followed by the PCA when applying the settlement procedure, thereby simplifying and encouraging cooperation between the parties involved.
- Although maintaining a margin of discretion on a case-by-case basis, the Guidelines provide new and relevant insight on how the PCA henceforth intend to process and commit parties to a settlement agreement. Depending on the case, undertakings resorting to this procedure may contribute to the description of the facts and the legal qualification to be included in the settlement decision. It also provides that the PCA, at the beginning of the discussions, may identify the applicable parameters guiding the percentage of reduction of the fine.

Read the detailed text by clicking [here](#).

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