

Portugal enforcer scores double court victory

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Two appeals against fines issued by Portugal's Competition Authority have been rejected by Portuguese courts.



Ricardo Oliveira,
counsel to Glintt

The first was brought by pharmaceutical companies Baxter Medical Pharmaceuticals and Glintt Business Solutions, who were fined by the authority for conspiring to fix the price of hospital equipment and impose vertical restraints.

Glintt was fined €300,000 and Baxter €100,000. The companies' first appeal at Lisbon's Commercial Court was rejected last September. They subsequently filed an appeal at Lisbon's Court of Appeal, which ruled in favour of the lower court's decision.

Counsel to Glintt say they have not yet decided whether to appeal against the ruling.

In the second case, Lisbon's Commercial Court upheld the authority's fines against two cleaning services companies for bid rigging.

Conforlimpa Multiservice and Number One Multiservice, two of Portugal's largest cleaning services businesses, were penalised for colluding to rig tenders for cleaning services contracts across the country. Number One was fined €63,000 and Conforlimpa €16,000.

The authority says the ruling is likely to be appealed against at the Court of Appeal.

Nuno Ruiz, at **Vieira de Almeida** in Lisbon, says: "The authority is need of some public success, and these cases are both good news."