

## INVESTIGATION

*Dawn raid—food retail sector—  
hub and spoke—price fixing  
cartel*

☞ Cartels; Coronavirus; Dawn  
raids; Food sales; National  
competition authorities;  
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### **Portuguese Competition Authority carries out its first dawn raids during the COVID-19 pandemic**

The Portuguese Competition Authority (“PCA”) is back in the trenches, having recently joined the group of European antitrust agencies that had already resumed their on-site inspection work following the outbreak of the coronavirus disease.

The competition watchdog announced on its website that it carried out dawn raids at the premises of companies located in the insular autonomous region of Madeira between 7 October and 13 October 2020. Unfortunately, no information on the safety measures adopted by the team of inspectors was provided by the PCA.

The undertaking(s) raided is/are reported to be active in the food-based retail sector. Since 2017, the PCA has opened several, currently ongoing, investigations into alleged hub and spoke cartels aimed at fixing prices charged by some of the largest supermarket chains active in the country.

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