

## NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY

*Competition Law and the Green Deal—2021 national competition law agenda—avoidance of barriers to new green technologies*

☞ Climate change; Competition law; Competition policy; Enforcement; Green deal plans; Innovation; Portugal

### Portugal: Green Deal early adopter?

In early February, the Portuguese Minister of Economy, Pedro Siza Vieira, took part in the European Commission virtual conference on Competition Policy supporting the EU's Green Deal. He addressed the positive correlation between competition and innovation. Siza Vieira urged for a step up in EU competition rules to further support the implementation of the Green Deal in order to meet the ambitious targets of climate neutrality by 2050. The said message seems to have resonated inside the Portuguese Competition Authority (PCA). In her intervention, the PCA's president, Margarida Matos Rosa, highlighted that competition enforcers may play a crucial role in incentivising firms to innovate, as the Law allows for agreements to take place under certain conditions. Undertakings may be able to satisfy these conditions, namely through implementing sustainability initiatives that create efficiencies and improve overall consumer welfare. Matos Rosa further appealed for vigilance against anti-competitive behaviour that could either prevent the emergence of innovative green technologies or involve agreements, disguised as green, but used to ultimately harm competition and consumers. It seems therefore that the Green Deal has a place in Portugal's 2021 competition agenda. Is the ball now in the court of the private sector?

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