



GAZDASÁGI
VERSENYHIVATAL

Egg producers' hope proved to be of eggshell solidity

The egg market was cartelised indeed – decided the Metropolitan Court of Budapest at first instance. The ruling confirmed that the association of egg producers and many undertakings active in the sector entered into a restrictive agreement. The 147 million HUF fine (app. 5,6 million EUR) is to be paid.

It was established in November 2006 that the association submitted recommended prices every year and suggested price rise. In 2002 it introduced a system for the authorisation of import and brought other measures like the withdrawal of small size eggs from the market, the reduction of layer capacities, the exportation of 10% of the products and organised an information cartel among the producers. The GVH took however into account the fact that due to the countervailing power of hypermarket chains, and the increase in import the agreements had no significant effect on the market.

It was also established that a joint venture of the parties was used as a tool for the coordination of the prices.

The decision of the GVH was upheld by court in first instance.