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### **Intel's 1.06 billion fine upheld by General Court of the European Union**

A €1.06bn fine against Intel for breaking EU competition rules and abuse of its dominant market position was today upheld by the General Court of the European Union.

**The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) was an official party to the complaint.** Monique Goyens, BEUC Director General commented:

"When large companies abuse their dominance of the market, it causes direct harm to consumers. The Court's ruling issued a strong reminder that such behaviour is illegal and unacceptable.

"Antitrust actions can help clean the market and this record fine should serve as an expensive deterrent against companies abusing oversized market shares.

"The extent of the fine should not pull the wool over peoples' eyes, consumers harmed by Intel's long-lasting misconduct were left out of any compensation."

**Background:** *The European Commission ruled that Intel engaged in anti-competitive behaviour by agreeing deals with manufacturers and sellers of computers to the disadvantage of its main rival, AMD.*

*Intel provided substantial rebates to the most important manufacturers on the condition they will obtain all, or the great majority, of their microprocessors (CPUs) from Intel as well as making payments to delay or cancel AMD product launches. In its decision, the Commission stressed that Intel's behaviour resulted in the reduction of consumer choice and lower incentives to innovate.*

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