



PRESS STATEMENT

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Competition Commission and international authorities conduct raid in various jurisdictions

The South African Competition Commission conducted a raid on 10 October 2007 on several freight forwarding companies suspected to have been engaged in practices which might contravene the Competition Act.

The Commission initiated an investigation into this industry after it had received information indicating that major players from the sector may be part of an international cartel.

The Commission conducted the raids in coordination with its counterparts from the European Commission and the US Department of Justice, the world's largest competition authorities. The raids were conducted simultaneously between the three competition jurisdictions for maximum impact on a cartel activity whose reach is believed to be international. This was the first time the Commission had coordinated operations with these authorities.

Cartels are regarded by competition authorities around the world as the most egregious of all contraventions. The evidence collected during the raids will be used by the Commission to determine whether or not the implicated companies have in fact engaged in cartel activity as suspected.

"If we are satisfied a contravention has taken place we will refer the matter to the Competition Tribunal," said Thulani Kunene, Manager, Enforcements and Exemptions Division.

ENDS

Prepared by: FD Beachhead

Jennifer Cohen- 011 214 2401/ 082 468 6469/ jennifer.cohen@fd.com

On behalf of: The Competition Commission

Further info:

Thulani Kunene, Head of Enforcements and Exemptions
012 394 3200 / 084 734 4179 / thulank@compcom.co.za

Nandi Mokoena, Enforcement and Exemptions
012 394 3286 / NandisileM@compcom.co.za