

LEAR COMPETITION FESTIVAL 2024

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PARALLEL SESSION

Cartel damages quantification: how do European Courts assess overcharges?



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Cartel Damage Claims



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- In NL appointment of an independent court expert is rare.
- In ES even more so: Practically never done.
- → In principle, the parties choose the method(s).
 - More so in Spain bc quantification needs to be submitted upon filing suit.

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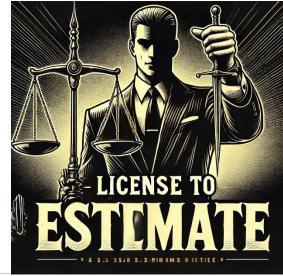


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 BUT, at least since trucks litigation: Spanish courts know that they have "license to estimate"



Three main approaches to quantification



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- Cost plus
- Simulation models
- Comparator based
 - Temporal
 - Geographical
 - Other (adjacent product etc)

Other "strategies"

- Connor & Lande dataset
- Judicial estimation

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Comparator based methods



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- Simple or
- taking different costs, product characteristics, demand, supply etc. into account
 - → multiple regression analysis

The Spanish floor of 5%: Some nuance



The "Spanish floor" of 5%: Some nuance

IF neither side's quantification / economic reasoning is convincing AND the fact that the claimant's quantification is not convincing is not due to complete passivity of the claimant (reasonableness of effort, access to evidence)

THEN the court can award a "conservative damage" that reflects the characteristics of the infringement



Given the characteristics of the trucks case, the court found it unlikely that the effect of the infringement was lower than 5%.

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