

Portuguese Competition Authority imposes interim measure on the Portuguese Football League that suspends no-poach agreement

The Portuguese Competition Authority (AdC) ordered the Portuguese Professional Football League (LPFP) to **immediately suspend the no-poach agreement, an agreement to allegedly not recruit or hire other clubs' football players of the First and Second Leagues, who unilaterally terminate their employment contract.** The agreement had invoked issues caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The AdC further decides that the LPFP **will communicate to all its member clubs the suspension of the decision** of April 8 and will issue a press release giving notice of the same fact.

For each day of delay in adopting the interim measure determined by the AdC, the LPFP is ordered to **pay EUR 6,000.00 euros.**

Previously, on April 8, LPFP issued statements that refer to a resolution adopted by agreement between First and Second Leagues clubs, as LPFP members. The agreement had the participation of LPFP's president and allegedly defined that the clubs **will not hire players who unilaterally terminate their employment contract** due to issues caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The AdC justified this measure with the potential serious and irreparable impact of a **horizontal restriction** that could distort the normal functioning of the market and may have a **negative impact on the economy and consumers.**

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