



The French Competition Authority (L'Autorité française de la concurrence) has published two guides on good practices, including principles and processes that reinforce Vigeo's referential.

On Friday, February 10th, The French Competition Authority published a framework document for companies, supporting compliance programmes that address competition. One month after having imposed a record 361 million euro fine on three laundry detergent manufacturers for price fixing, the Competition Authority intends to promote a culture of fair competition. The Authority "encourages companies and organisations which already have a compliance programme to ensure that the programme has a "competition dimension" whilst inciting other companies to implement one"¹.

This ten-page good practices guide confirms point by point recommendations from Vigeo's evaluation methodology for companies' anti-competitive practices, notably:

- "The existence of a clear, firm and public position of support adopted by the company's management bodies The commitment to appoint one or more persons responsible for the programme's development and operation
- Developing information, awareness raising measures and staff training
- Setting up control, audit and whistle blowing mechanisms
- Establishing a system for reviewing reports of misconduct and taking relevant actions²"

Vigeo today has quantitative and qualitative data available on over 900 European, North American and Asia-Pacific companies, summarising their degree of accountability on the guidelines that conform to those prescribed in the Competition Authority's framework document. This data also enables Vigeo to measure their degree of exposure to legal, operational, and reputational risks resulting both from their practices and investigations and sanctions faced by the companies. Vigeo evaluates 51 major French companies on this criterion.

Although there are no one-size-fits-all compliance programmes, the directives in this guide enable companies to reduce their exposure to these risks. With consumers being the main stakeholders, fair competition is a key CSR issue.

If you are a company and wish to know more about your degree of compliance with the Competition Authority's framework document, or see how you compare with your competitors, please contact Mr. Laurent Brugeilles, sales director of Vigeo Enterprise: laurent.bruegilles@vigeo.com.

If you are an investor and wish to know how the companies in which you invest are performing, please contact Ms. Florence Bihour-Frézal, sales manager of Vigeo Rating in France: florence.bihour@vigeo.com.

For the complete texte:

http://www.autoritedelaconcurrence.fr/doc/framework_document_compliance_10february2012.pdf

¹ http://www.autoritedelaconcurrence.fr/user/standard.php?id_rub=418&id_article=1795

² Ibid