

Spanish law firm files EUR 700m truck damages claims

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Spanish law firm **Caamaño, Concheiro & Seoane** (CCS Abogados) has today (1 February) started filing 7,300 truck cartel damages claims worth more than EUR 700m before the Spanish commercial courts, the firm said in an emailed press release.

CCS has the largest portfolio of follow-on claims in Spain stemming from the European truck cartel, with more than 4,500 applicants owning over 34,000 vehicles, the statement said.

The actions follow the European Commission's 2016 decision **fining Volvo/Renault, Iveco, Daimler and DAF** a total of EUR 2.92bn for fixing the prices of heavy and medium heavy trucks between 1997 and 2011, while whistleblower **MAN** received full immunity. Non-settling firm **Scania** was **slapped** with a EUR 880m penalty in September 2017.

Most of CCS' clients belong to the federation of goods transport **Confederación Española de Transporte de Mercancías** (CETM), which in June 2017 chose the firm after launching a procedure to select legal counsel to recommend to its members, the announcement said.

The claims will be filed uniformly in all Spanish regions, the press release noted.

CCS created the technological platform **Truck Data Intelligence** to manage the large number of documents necessary to process the claims, the firm said.

According to an expert report drafted by the law firm's economist team and external professionals, the firm is requesting compensation with an approximate average of 16.35% of the original truck purchase price, although the figure depends on the year of acquisition within the 14-year infringement period, the item added.

This figure does not include interest that may have accrued in the meantime, the announcement noted.

The firm added that its estimation of the overcharge was based on different econometric methods, which using a differentiated counterfactual based on vans and light trucks during the cartel period, resulted in a similar outcome. The methodology has so far not been used by any other Spanish law firm, the item said.

Multiple rulings have been issued by the Spanish commercial courts. While a Murcia court **awarded** EUR 0.12m to a claimant, it also **dismissed** an action for lack of standing and a Zaragoza judge **rejected** one suit because it found the expert report insufficient.

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