

## Printeos wins further interest from EU over annulled cartel fine

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By Nicholas Hirst

### In Brief

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The bloc's Court of Justice today ruled (see [here](#)) that the competition regulator owed the Spanish company additional interest dating back several years.

In February 2019, the EU's first-tier court ruled (see [here](#)) that the commission needed to pay Printeos interest amounting to more than 180,000 euros (\$218,000 today) on the 4.7 million-euro fine. The EU's top court today rejected the commission's appeal.

But while the lower court had also found the regulator owed interest on that amount — 184,592.95 euros — starting from the day of the judgment, the Court of Justice held that it was owed from March 2017, the day Printeos filed its lawsuit.

"In the absence of such compound interest, Printeos would not be compensated for the loss of enjoyment, during the period from the date on which it brought its action until the date of delivery of the judgment under appeal, of the amount of interest to which it was entitled," the court said.

The judges noted that Printeos "had clearly requested the commission to pay such interest, which it refused unlawfully to pay."

In December 2014, the commission imposed fines totaling 19.4 million euros on Bong Ljungdahl, GPV, Hamelin, Mayer-Kuvert and Tompla for running a cartel in the market for envelopes.

The General Court overturned the fine in December 2016, triggering the reimbursement of 4.7 million euros.

The regulator subsequently re-imposed the fine in June 2017, prompting a separate and unsuccessful appeal from Printeos (see [here](#)).

Today's case number is Commission v Printeos, C-301/19 P.

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