

**PRESS RELEASE, 6/2019**

**Commeo advises Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels e.V. (German Publishers and Booksellers Association) on complaint against Deutsche Post AG**

*Frankfurt am Main* – Commeo lodged a complaint with the Federal Cartel Office on behalf of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels e.V. (“Börsenverein”) against Deutsche Post AG (“Post”) for abusing its dominant position with regard to the dispatch of books.

Following massive price increases for book shipments in 2018, the Post has again announced price increases of up to 60 percent for 1 July 2019. In addition, the Post is reducing the dimensions for this format so that about one third of the books sent to date can no longer be sent as book shipment. As a result, booksellers and publishers will be forced to switch to more expensive products from the parcel business. From the point of view of the book industry, this is aggravated by the fact that major customer Amazon receives considerably reduced conditions from the Post for the dispatch of books and other goods – conditions for which booksellers and publishers have no access.

The Post has reacted to the large media response involving the complaint and the political pressure by announcing a transitional period for book and goods shipments until 1 January 2020. The complaint remains unaffected by this.

The Börsenverein is advised by Commeo partner Dr. Stephanie Pautke as lead counsel. Josefa Billinger was also acting for the Börsenverein in the context of the complaint.

Commeo has already filed complaints with the Federal Cartel Office on behalf of the Börsenverein in the past, namely against the DEAL procurement model of the Allianz der deutschen Wissenschaftsorganisationen (Alliance of German Science Organisations) (2016) and against Amazon/Audible (2015), among others.

Commeo LLP is a specialized law firm in Frankfurt am Main focusing exclusively on competition law. An established team of experienced lawyers advises national and international clients on all aspects of German and European competition law.