

The European Commission has imposed a fine of one billion € on Intel Corporation (4.15% of its turnover in 2008) for an abuse of dominant position. The investigation, which took 8 years, found that Intel engaged in two specific forms of illegal practice. First, Intel gave wholly or partially hidden rebates to computer manufacturers on condition that they bought all, or almost all, their x86 CPUs from Intel. Second, Intel made direct payments to computer manufacturers to halt or delay the launch of specific products containing competitors' x86 CPUs and to limit the sales channels available to these products.