

## CASE STUDY

# CARTELS



### // SITUATION //

A car part producer received an un-announced antitrust investigation (dawn-raid) by the European Commission for an alleged cartel. The case was considered a priority for the European Commission since it was part of a much wider effort of the Commission aiming to uncover and sanction cartels in the automotive sector.



### // OBJECTIVES //



The client wanted to communicate their profound regret for past conduct and sought to take full responsibility for it. The client was also ready to cooperate with the European Commission to reach a satisfactory conclusion of the investigation.

### // EXECUTION //

Kreab advised the client since the very beginning of the investigation on the best way to pass their message to the European Commission. We facilitated constructive dialogue between the client, their lawyers, and Senior Managers within the European Commission. We also raised the interest of other decision makers of the European Commission in the investigation and on the particular position of our client.



### // RESULT //



Kreab advised the company and its external lawyers on how and what information needed to be communicated to the Commission. The client succeeded in limiting legal and reputational damages deriving from the cartel investigation. The client was able to build a constructive dialogue with the European Commission and became a reliable partner for them