

# EU launches probe into suspected chipmaker cartel

April 22 2013

---



A model demonstrates how to use a mobile phone handset equipped with a smartcard chip to pay an auto vending machine in Tokyo, 11 July 2005. EU anti-trust authorities have announced a formal cartel probe into smartcard chipmakers—the motors for everything from bank and mobile SIM cards to electronic ID papers, after talks aimed at securing an amicable settlement broke down.

EU anti-trust authorities announced on Monday a formal cartel probe into smartcard chipmakers—the motors for everything from bank and mobile SIM cards to electronic ID papers, after talks aimed at securing an amicable settlement broke down.

"The European Commission has informed a number of suppliers of smart card chips of its preliminary view that they may have participated in a cartel, in breach of EU [antitrust rules](#)," said a statement from European Union Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia.

The sending of a "statement of objections" is a legal step that does not necessarily result in a fine, but underlines that "the Commission has concerns that certain chips suppliers may have agreed or coordinated their behaviour ... in order to keep prices up."

Almunia added: "It is not because [settlement talks](#) fail that companies get off the hook ... The Commission will not hesitate to revert to the normal procedure and to pursue the suspected infringement."

The companies involved were not immediately named.

(c) 2013 AFP

Citation: EU launches probe into suspected chipmaker cartel (2013, April 22) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-04-eu-probe-chipmaker-cartel.html>

|  |
|--|
| <p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p> |
|--|