Working together on sustainability? We're here to help!

Consciously working together towards a sustainable sector?
The competition rules offer many opportunities to do so! Are you unsure if an agreement with another company is allowed? Even after consulting with a legal adviser? Ask ACM to check your collaboration before you start.

1 Do your own research

Make sure to prepare well, so we are able to assess your plan faster.

Check whether the collaboration may restrict competition (link in Dutch)
If so, follow the steps below.

Assess whether the benefits (sustainable or otherwise) are greater than the harm to competition
Check whether your initiative meets four conditions (link in Dutch).





2 Explain your plan to us

Average lead time: 6 to 8 weeks

Send us your sustainability agreement
Send us all the information from your own research (step 1) by sending an email to acm-post@acm.nl. Your request must contain several elements (link in Dutch). We will assess your case on the basis of the information you provide.

First meeting
We will explain our approach and ask questions. You will have the opportunity to explain your initiative in greater detail.

Written questions
We will send you follow-up questions by email.

Second meeting

In this meeting, we will give you our initial feedback.

There are several possible outcomes:
- We do not see any major risks to competition.
- We do see risks: we will discuss with each other what solutions can take away these risks.
- We do not have sufficient information to get a clear picture: we will ask you additional questions.



3 Receive our response

Average lead time: 1 to 2 weeks

Informal assessment
If we find the agreement to be all right, we will not assess it further. You will not receive an official approval.

Publication
In consultation with you, we will publish our informal assessment on our website. This helps other businesses.



4 Carry out the agreement

If the assessment is positive, launch your sustainability collaboration

You are responsible for fulfilling the agreement.

If our assessment changes, we will think along with you

If it turns out later that the agreement is at odds with competition rules after all, you will not be fined. We will think along with you about possible solutions.

Start your sustainability initiative with more reassurance!

For more information see (in Dutch):
https://www.acm.nl/nl/concurrentie-en-marktwerking/concurreren-en-samenwerken/afspraken-tussen-bedrijven-over-duurzaamheid/afspraken-met-andere-bedrijven-over-duurzaamheid

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