The Commission is aware of significant price increases in the prices of basic materials, including plastics, in particular since 2020.

The Commission monitors these markets as part of its daily activities. However, it would underline that there can be many reasons why suppliers of a particular material, such as polypropylene granules, may increase their prices. In particular, the Commission observes that, over the past couple of years, all producers on this market have been subject to similar and substantial increases in prices for key inputs, including for petroleum and its derivatives.

To facilitate the detection of violations of EU competition law, buyers of granules can bring any evidence indicating that the price increases for such products result from coordinated behaviour among market participants, to the Commission’s attention. In fact, pursuant to Commission Regulation 773/2004, natural and legal persons having a legitimate interest are entitled to lodge a complaint to the Commission’s Directorate-General for Competition if they encounter a breach of EU competition law.

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