

ARTICLE

THE PARIS COURT OF APPEALS CANCELLED THE EUR 18 MILLION AND EUR 2 MILLION FINES IMPOSED ON FRANCE TÉLÉCOM AND SFR

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Ruling for the third time after two referrals to the Cour de cassation, the Paris Court of Appeals cancelled the EUR 18 million and EUR 2 million fines imposed on France Télécom and SFR, respectively, in 2004, by the French Competition Council, for unfair practices in the form of a margin squeeze on the market for landline calls to company mobiles. The Court found that these rulings were invalid due to shortcomings and contradictions in the evidence of the alleged offences. The Court also ordered the Competition Authority to publish on its website and in the newspaper Les Echos a press release stating that France Télécom had been cleared and that the EUR 18 million fine would be immediately refunded. France Télécom was advised by Christophe Clarenc, who has recently joined August & Debouzy, and SFR by Frédérique Dupuis-Toubol from Bird & Bird.
