

The CNMC extends the disciplinary proceedings for the manipulation and distribution of tenders related to military equipment

- The initiation of proceedings is extended to a parent company and 6 executives.
- These proceedings investigate agreements and the distribution of tenders called in Spain for the supply, maintenance and modernisation of military equipment.

Madrid, 16 June 2022.- On 21 December 2021, the CNMC initiated disciplinary proceedings for possible anti-competitive practices consisting of agreements for the manipulation and distribution of tenders called in Spain for the supply, maintenance and modernisation of military equipment against Comercial Hernando Moreno S.L.U. (COHEMO), Grupo de Ingeniería Reconstrucción y Recambios JPG, S.A. (JPG), Star Defence Logistics & Engineering S.L. (SDLE), Casli S.A. (CASLI) and, jointly and severally, its parent company Inversiones Certin 5 S.L. (IC5) (S/0008/21).

In view of the evidence obtained during the investigation, including the information gathered during the inspections carried out at the headquarters of the aforementioned companies, it has been agreed to extend the initiation of the disciplinary proceedings to 6 executives of some of these companies, specifically, three managers of SDLE, another two of COHEMO and one manager of JPG.

On the other hand, it has also been agreed to extend the initiation of the proceedings to the company Hernando Moreno Cartera de Valores S.L., for joint and several liability, as it is the parent company of COHEMO.

The extension of the initiation does not prejudge the final result of the investigation and the maximum period of 18 months from the date of the original initiation for the investigation and resolution of these proceedings by the CNMC remains in force.

The investigation of cartels is one of the CNMC's priorities for action, given the particularly serious consequences for consumers and the proper functioning of the markets.

One of the instruments available for this purpose is the Leniency Programme, which allows companies that are part of a cartel to benefit from exemption from paying the fine and from the non-application of the ban on contracting with the public sector as a result of the sanction for distortion of competition, as long as they provide evidence that enables the CNMC to detect the said cartel.