

PRESS RELEASE

The CNMC opens a formal investigation into the Royal Canine Society of Spain for alleged antitrust practices

- The conduct investigated sought to hinder and avoid competition with other official associations
- It potentially affects the markets for certifying purebred dogs and providing judging services at dog events.

Madrid, 7 October 2020 - The CNMC investigates the **Royal Canine Society of Spain** (RSCE) for potentially abusing its dominant position in the market for certifying purebred dogs and providing judging services at dog competitions and shows.

This investigation was initiated in response to a complaint filed by the Royal Spanish German Shepherd Dog Club (RCEPPA), which was endorsed by the following competing associations: Kennel Club España, the National Association of Canine Breeders And Trainers (ACCAM), and the Royal Spanish Hunting Federation (RFEC).

In view of the information gathered, the CNMC opened a formal investigation into the RSCE, given the indications that it is allegedly hindering and preventing third-party official pedigree dog associations from providing their certification services.

Specifically, this conduct potentially affects the certification of purebred dogs for export, as well as the organization of dog shows and events under conditions of fair competition, since the aforementioned Society is allegedly prohibiting and even sanctioning RSCE judges who take part in activities organised by competing associations not affiliated with the RSCE.

Based on the information analysed, the CNMC believes that there is sufficient evidence of a violation of Article 2 of Law 15/2007 of July 3, the Antitrust Law, and of Article 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFUE).

The opening of a formal investigation does not prejudice its outcome. There is legal deadline of 18 months for bringing this antitrust investigation to an end.

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