

PRESS RELEASE

The CNMC initiates disciplinary proceedings against the Official Association of Dentists and Stomatologists of Region I (COEM) and the General Council of Official Associations of Dentists and Stomatologists of Spain

- It is Investigating a collective recommendation intended to hamper the provision of services to commercial dentistry clinics and exclude them from the market.

Madrid, 14 June 2019 - The CNMC (National Commission on Markets and Competition) has initiated disciplinary proceedings against the Official Association of Dentists and Stomatologists of Region I (COEM) and the General Council of Official Associations of Dentists and Stomatologists of Spain. (S/DC/0573/16).

The reason is that there are reasonable signs of infractions prohibited by Article 1 of the Law on Free Competition and by Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Specifically, possible anticompetitive practices involving coordinated actions through collegial agreements, advertising campaigns and other actions, constituting a collective recommendation. The objective of the recommendation, made at least from 2013 to 2017, would have been to hamper the provision of services to commercial dentistry clinics and exclude them from the market.

The basis for the CNMC's actions is the complaints filed by Dentoesthetic Centro de Salud y Estética Dental, SL. (DENTIX) and Dental Global Management SL (iDENTAL) in 2015 and 2017.

The CNMC reminds the parties of the “duty to discretion and confidentiality” to which they are bound in accordance with Article 43 of Law 15/2007 on Free Competition. This duty to discretion is aimed at protecting the process of investigating and resolving the disciplinary proceedings.

The initiation of these proceedings does not prejudice the final result of the investigation. A maximum period of 18 months is now open for the CNMC to investigate and resolve the case.

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