

PRESS RELEASE

The CNMC initiates disciplinary proceedings against 25 companies and 2 associations engaged in transporting travellers by road in the region of Cantabria

- It is investigating potential practices that restrict competition, especially involving school transport

Madrid, 8 October 2019 - The CNMC has initiated disciplinary proceedings against 25 companies and 2 associations for potential practices that restrict competition in the provision of public transport services for road passengers in the region of Cantabria, both scheduled and for hire, especially involving school transport (S/0011/19 PASSENGER TRANSPORT IN CANTABRIA).

After analysing the complaint from the Cantabrian Taxi Federation and the information collected during the [inspections carried out](#) last February at the headquarters of Autobuses Benito, S.L., Autobuses Palomera, S.A. and Transportes Terrestres Cántabros, S.A., the CNMC has initiated disciplinary proceedings against 25 companies and 2 associations in the sector.

Specifically, the Commission is investigating their alleged participation in possible anti-trust practices consisting of price fixing and the allocation of customers and/or tenders intended to provide road passenger public transport services in the Autonomous Community of Cantabria, both scheduled and for hire, especially involving school transport.

Specifically, the actions are being taken against: Agesmicar, S.L., A. Menocal, S.L., Anfersa Adaptado, S.L., Autobuses Benito, S.L., Autobuses Figueras, S.L., Autobuses Juan Ruiz, S.L., Autobuses La Cantábrica de Comillas, S.A., Autobuses La Carredana, S.L., Autobuses Madrazo, S.L., Autobuses Palomera, S.A., Autocares Eusebio, S.L., Autocares Mariano, S.L., Internacional Regular Bus Castro, S.L., Lorenzo Casanova Y Hermanos, S.A., Lupefer, S.L., N. R. Ruiz, S.A., Rotratour, S.L., Zorrilla e Hijo, S. L., Grupo Enatcar, S.A., Viajes Por Carretera, S.A.U, Transportes Terrestres Cántabros, S.A., Rutas del Cantábrico, S.L., Transportes Accesibles Generales, S.A. and Transportes Accesibles Peninsulares, S.L., and the parent company of these last six companies, General Técnico Industrial, S.L.U., as well as against 2 associations, Unión Patronal de Autotransporte de Viajeros de la Provincia de Cantabria (UPAVISAN) and Coordinadora de Transportes de Viajeros de Cantabria.

A period not to exceed 18 months thus begins for the CNMC to investigate this case and issue its ruling. The opening of this case does not presume the final result of the investigation.

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The investigation of cartels is one of the CNMC's top priorities, given the particular seriousness of their consequences on consumers and on the proper operation of the markets.

To this end, the CNMC has, among other instruments, a [Leniency Programme](#) through which companies that are part of a cartel can receive immunity from fines in exchange for providing information to the CNMC that allows it to prove the existence of the cartel.

In addition, the CNMC has an [online whistle-blower platform](#) to identify cartels that allows the public to provide anonymous information on possible secret agreements between competing companies involving pricing or other commercial conditions, the distribution of markets or customers, or the fraudulent distribution of public or private tenders.

We also note that the prohibition to contract companies that are sanctioned for serious infringements involving the distortion of competition, contained in Article 71 of Law 9/2007 on Public Sector Contracts, includes an exception, in Article 72.5 of said Law, for companies that request clemency.

The CNMC also has a guide with recommendations on [best practices in public procurement](#).

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