

PRESS RELEASE

The CNMC investigates alleged anti-trust practices in the market for manufacturing and marketing uniform garments, professional clothing and equipment

- It is analysing alleged agreements between different companies present in this market to allocate customers, fix prices and exchange information.

Madrid, 8 November 2019. The CNMC is investigating alleged anti-trust practices in the market for manufacturing and marketing uniform garments, professional clothing and equipment within Spain.

Between 5 and 7 November 2019, on-site inspections were conducted at the headquarters of several companies and institutions that operate in this market. These companies are alleged to have agreed to participate in tenders offered by various customers located throughout Spain to supply uniform garments, professional clothing and equipment.

The inspections represent a preliminary step in the process of investigating the alleged anti-trust behaviours and do not presume the outcome of the investigation or the guilt of the companies inspected. If the inspection finds signs of practices prohibited by the Anti-Trust Law, then disciplinary proceedings will be formally initiated.

Agreements between competitors constitute a very serious violation of anti-trust law and can lead to fines of up to 10% of the total turnover of the infringing companies.

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 offers a [leniency programme](#), which allows companies that are part of a cartel to avoid having to pay a fine as long as they provide evidence that allows the CNMC to identify a cartel, or to have the amount of the potential fine reduced if they provide information that is of significant value to an ongoing CNMC investigation.

In addition, the CNMC has an [online whistleblower 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.

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