

PRESS RELEASE

The CNMC investigates possible anticompetitive practices in Spain's natural gas market

- It assesses an alleged abuse of dominant position in said market involving foreclosure.

Madrid, 7 October 2020 - The CNMC investigates a potential antitrust violation in Spain's natural gas market.

On 30 September and 1 October 2020, the CNMC inspected the headquarters of a company in the sector on suspicion of alleged antitrust practices, prohibited by the antitrust rules. Such behavior would consist of abusing its dominant position through a market foreclosure strategy involving third-party competitors.

Dawn raids are a preliminary step in the process of investigating the alleged anticompetitive practices, and do not prejudge the outcome of the investigation or the guilt of the company.

If, as a result of the inspection, there are signs of antitrust practices prohibited by the antitrust rules, formal disciplinary proceedings will be initiated.

The abuse of a dominant position in recently deregulated markets, such as the one in this case, is considered a very serious violation of the anti-trust law and can result in fines of up to 10% of the infringing company's total turnover in the year immediately preceding the imposition of the fine.

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