

## 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 market 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 carried out an inspection at the headquarters of a company in the sector on suspicion of alleged anticompetitive infringements, prohibited by the antitrust Law, consisting on an abuse of its dominant position through a market foreclosure strategy affecting third-party competitors.

Dawn raids are a preliminary step in the process of investigating the alleged anticompetitive infringements, and do not prejudge neither the outcome of the investigation nor the liability of the company.

If, as a result of the inspection, there are signs of anticompetitive infringements prohibited by the antitrust Law, formal sanctioning proceedings will be opened.

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.

*Unofficial document intended for the media. Not binding on the CNMC. Reproduction authorised only if the source is cited.*