

PRESS RELEASE

CNMC and the Autoridad da Concorrência (AdC) carry out simultaneous investigations into possible anti-competitive practices in Spain and Portugal.

- The inspections concern companies that market subscriptions to databases with business information.
- Both authorities analyse possible market-sharing arrangements and in the setting of sales prices or discounts applied to this type of product.

Madrid, 21 June 2021. The CNMC investigates possible anti-competitive practices, consisting of agreements or concerted practices relating to customer allocation and the fixing of sales prices or discounts applicable to subscriptions to business information products.

The CNMC and the AdC are carrying out parallel investigations, respectively, in Spain and Portugal. The authorities have been cooperating closely within the framework of the European Competition Network (ECN), with the assistance of the European Commission. The CNMC and the AdC have simultaneously inspected the seats of companies in the sector in their respective territories.

The inspections carried out from 2 to 4 June 2021 represent a preliminary step in the investigation process of the alleged anti-competitive behavior and do not prejudge the outcome of the investigation or the guilt of the companies under investigation.

If, as a result of the inspection, there are indications of practices prohibited by the Law on the Protection of Competition and by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, disciplinary proceedings will be formally initiated.

Very serious infringements

Agreements between competitors constitute a very serious infringement of competition law, which may lead to fines of up to 10 % of the total turnover of the infringing undertakings. Indeed, the investigation of cartels is one of the CNMC's priorities for action, given the particularly serious impact on consumers and the proper functioning of the markets.

This includes, *inter alia*, the [leniency programme](#), which allows undertakings in a cartel to benefit from immunity from fines, provided that they provide evidence enabling the CNMC to detect it, or a reduction of the fine that might be imposed on it, if it provides information with significant added value, in relation to an investigation already initiated by CNMC.

Furthermore, the prohibition on contracting laid down in Article 71 of Law 9/2007 on Public Sector Contracts for those sanctioned for serious infringements of distortion of competition would be exempted for undertakings applying for leniency.

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In addition, CNMC has a [citizens' online platform](#) for the detection of cartels by providing anonymous information on any secret agreements between competing undertakings for the fixing of prices or other commercial conditions, the sharing of markets or customers, or the fraudulent sharing of public or private tenders.

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