

PRESS RELEASE

The CNMC calls on the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) to amend their proposal for commercialising the audiovisual rights of the new "Primera RFEF" category

- The document breaches several requirements set out in Royal Decree-Act 5/2015.
- It affects the commercialisation of the rights in Spain, Europe and the international market for the seasons 2021 to 2024.
- Among other things, the RFEF will have to eliminate any unrecognised commercialisation rights.

Madrid, 16 July 2021.- The CNMC is calling on the Royal Spanish Football Federation (Real Federación Española de Fútbol; RFEF) to amend its proposal for commercialising the audiovisual rights of the new "Primera RFEF" category in Spain, Europe and international markets. This document affects the seasons 2021 to 2024. ([INF/CNMC/079/21](#)).

After analysing the content of the proposal, the CNMC has concluded that the RFEF does not comply with certain aspects established in [Royal Decree-Act 5/2015](#), which regulates the audiovisual broadcasting rights of professional football.

This is the eighth preliminary report that the CNMC has drawn up at the request of the RFEF on its commercialisation proposals since the entry into force of the aforementioned regulation.

Changes to the proposal

The CNMC is once again calling on the RFEF to bring its commercialisation proposal into line with the regulation in the following aspects:

- To restrict the powers granted to it regarding "the joint commercialisation of the audiovisual rights included in the scope of this Royal Decree-Act".
- To eliminate the reference to the ownership of rights that are not recognised.
- To not include commercial opportunities and obligations relating to advertising which are not covered by the applicable legal regulations and which are unjustified and contrary to the principle of freedom of enterprise.
- To not include reservations of rights, non-exclusive rights, included rights, reserved rights, other rights, etc., which are not justified.
- To amend those aspects identified in the report that are contrary to the principles of publicity, transparency, competition and non-discrimination in the process of awarding rights.

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- To remove technical restrictions that aim to offer an inferior product and that are not sufficiently justified.

The CNMC highlights that the marketing proposal submitted by the RFEF will be subject to Articles 1 and 2 of Act 15/2007, on the Defence of Competition (LDC), and to Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), in all those aspects that exceed the scope of protection set out in Royal Decree-Act 5/2015.7

The CNMC has prepared this report pursuant to the provisions of Article 4 of Royal Decree-Act 5/2015, on urgent measures relating to the commercialisation of the rights to exploit audiovisual content of professional football competitions.

([INF/CNMC/079/21](#)).

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