

The CNMC is investigating potential anti-competitive practices in Spain's waste treatment and recycling market

- It is assessing whether anti-competitive practices and agreements related to Spain's plastic and metal waste treatment and recycling market exist.

Madrid, 21 December 2021.- The CNMC is investigating potential anti-competitive practices in Spain's plastic and metal waste treatment and recycling market.

On 14, 15 and 16 December 2021, the CNMC conducted inspections at the offices of several sector companies based on a report it received. Confirmation that anti-competitive practices exist in the market would constitute an infringement of articles 1 and 2 of Spain's competition law (*Ley de Defensa de la Competencia*).

Inspections are a preliminary step in an investigation into suspected anti-competitive practices and do not mean that the companies are guilty of anti-competitive behaviour nor does it prejudice the outcome of the investigation.

If, as a result of the inspection, there are indications of practices prohibited by Spain's Competition law (*Ley de Defensa de la Competencia*) and by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, formal disciplinary proceedings will be initiated.

The CNMC recalls that practices that infringe Articles 1 and 2 of Spain's Competition Law constitute an extremely serious offence and can carry fines of up to 10% of the value of the relevant sales of the companies involved of the year immediately preceding the year in which the fine is imposed.