

The CNMC investigates several companies for the possible rigging of public tenders related to security and surveillance services

- The possible agreements involving the rigging and allocation of tenders might have affected several public authorities.
- From March 1 to March 4, the CNMC carried out on-site inspections at the premises of several companies operating in this market.
- These inspections are a preliminary step leading to the possible formal initiation of sanctioning proceedings.

Madrid, March 10, 2022.- The CNMC is investigating possible anti-competitive practices, consisting of agreements for the rigging and allocation of public tenders for security and surveillance services. These alleged practices might affect various public authorities.

From March 1 to March 4, the CNMC carried out on-site inspections at the headquarters of several companies operating in the aforementioned market, with the cooperation of the Andalusian Competition and Economic Regulation Agency (Agencia de la Competencia y de la Regulación Económica de Andalucía) for the inspections that took place in Andalusia.

These inspections are a preliminary step in the process of investigating alleged anti-competitive conduct. They do not prejudice the result of the investigation or the culpability of the companies inspected.

If the CNMC finds any evidence of practices prohibited by the [Competition Law](#) or the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) as a result of the inspection, it will initiate formal proceedings to impose sanctions.

The CNMC stresses that agreements between competitors constitute a very serious infringement of competition law and can lead to fines of up to 10% of the total turnover of the offending companies.

The investigation of cartels is one of the CNMC's priorities for action, given its particularly serious consequences for consumers and the proper functioning of the markets.

To this end, it offers, among other things, the clemency programme. This allows companies that provide evidence to the CNMC that makes it possible to detect the cartel in which they participate, or have participated, to be exempted from

paying the fine. This programme also grants clemency for applicants who, once the CNMC investigation has been initiated, provide information with significant added value. This allows them to benefit from a reduced fine.

In addition to being exempted from paying a fine or receiving a reduced fine, companies applying for clemency are also exempted from the prohibition on contracting established in Article 71 of the [Public Sector Contracts Law](#) for those sanctioned due to a serious infringement in the area of anti-trust, in application of Article 72.5 of the aforementioned law and Articles 65.4 and 66.5 of the [Competition Law](#), which regulates the clemency programme.

The CNMC also has an online platform for citizen collaboration aimed at detecting cartels through anonymous information on possible secret agreements between competing companies to fix prices or other commercial conditions, the sharing of markets or customers, or the fraudulent allocation of public or private tenders. This whistleblower platform is known as the [System of Anonymous Competition Informants \(Sistema de Informantes de Competencia Anónimos; SICA\)](#).