

The CNMC publishes a questionnaire to evaluate the Leniency Programme

- Interested parties may submit their comments until 15 September.
- The programme allows companies and executives of a cartel who cooperate with the CNMC in its detection or investigation to be granted immunity from fines or to benefit from a reduction of fines.
- Since 2008, almost half of the fines imposed on cartels have resulted from leniency applications.
- Cartels are one of the most harmful infringements of antitrust law in terms of their economic impact on society.

Madrid, 11 July 2023. The Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC) has published a questionnaire, available until 31 July, to evaluate its Leniency Programme, in operation since 2008. ([Questionnaire on the Leniency Programme](#))

The CNMC is aware of the need to adapt its [leniency programme](#) to the economic, social and business reality of Spain. The aim of the questionnaire is to improve its effectiveness, measure its perception and awareness among citizens and economic operators, analyse its possible weaknesses and detect opportunities for improvement.

Leniency Programme

It is an essential tool in the fight against cartels in Spain. Almost half of the sanctions imposed on cartels up to 2022 in the EU have originated from a leniency application. Thus, out of a total of 116 cartels sanctioned, leniency applications have been submitted in 53 cases (46% of the total).

Companies and executives who are part of a cartel and cooperate with the CNMC in its detection or investigation may be granted immunity from fines or benefit from a reduction of fines.

The moment when the companies or executives of a cartel disclose its existence to the CNMC is very relevant. Indeed, only the first leniency applicant may be granted immunity from fines. Subsequent applicants, on condition that they provide information with significant added value for the investigation, may benefit

from a reduction of fines, which decreases progressively according to the order in which the application is received.

The [Questionnaire on the Leniency Programme](#) is available on the CNMC website until 15 September 2023.

Related content:

- [Access to the Questionnaire on the Leniency Programme](#)
- [Video on the CNMC Leniency Programme](#)
- [CNMC Leniency Programme](#)