

The CNMC adds a company and five executives to its investigation against several distributors of basic foodstuffs

- In 2022, the CNMC initiated disciplinary proceedings against several companies for alleged anti-competitive practices affecting the supply of basic foodstuffs to communities dependent on public bodies.
- Among those affected are schools, prisons, and aid centres for vulnerable groups, including residential homes, day centres, soup kitchens, etc.

Madrid, 19 July 2023.- The National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC) has extended the disciplinary proceedings initiated in 2022 against several companies ([press release](#)) involved in the distribution of foodstuffs to communities dependent on public bodies for the alleged allocation of clients, exchange of commercially sensitive information, and manipulation of tenders ([S/0016/21](#)).

Extension of the proceedings

The company Acacio S.L., a subsidiary of Plataforma Femar S.L., and five executives (two from Plataforma Femar and Acacio; two from Serviline Foods, and one from Asesores Llangón) have been added to the disciplinary proceedings.

The proceedings were opened last December against the following companies: Asesores Llangón S.L., Frutícolas Ateca S.L., Hermanos Vidal S.L., Leonesa de Patatas S.L., Plataforma Femar S.L., Serviline Foods S.L. and its parent company, Distribuciones Cebollada S.L.

The extension does not prejudice the outcome of the investigation. The 18-month time limit for the investigation and resolution of the case is maintained from the date of the original initiation.

Action against cartels

The investigation of cartels is one of the CNMC's priorities for action, given the serious consequences for consumers and the proper functioning of the markets. The CNMC has a [Leniency programme](#) for detecting and dismantling cartels, among other instruments.

Firstly this programme grants immunity from fines to companies that are part of a cartel. To benefit from this immunity, they must provide evidence that enables the CNMC to detect such a cartel. Secondly, if these companies are ultimately penalised, they shall not be prohibited from entering into contracts with public

administrations, as laid down in Article 72.5 of Law 9/2017 on Public Sector Contracts.

Related content:

- [S/0016/21](#): “Food supply” case
- [Press release](#) (16/12/2022): The CNMC initiates disciplinary proceedings against several food distribution companies
- [Press release](#) (20/09/2022): The CNMC extends its investigation to new companies for possible manipulation of tenders for the supply of basic foodstuffs to communities dependent on public bodies
- [Press release](#) (28/03/2022): The CNMC investigates possible anti-competitive practices in the food supply market to communities dependent on public bodies
- [Leniency programme](#)
- [Press release](#) (11/07/2023): The CNMC publishes a questionnaire to evaluate the Leniency programme