

The CNMC authorises with commitments the purchase of World Padel Tour by Qatar Sports Investments

- The acquisition affects the market for the holding of exploitation rights for professional padel tennis competitions.
- The commitments submitted will guarantee players the freedom to participate in other competitions.

Madrid, 27 March, 2024. The Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC) has approved, in the first phase and with commitments, the purchase of World Padel Tour (WPT) by Qatar Sports Investments (QSI).

The operation affects the market for the holding of exploitation rights for professional padel tennis competitions. Premier Padel (owned by QSI) and WPT are two of the most important professional padel circuits at the national and international levels. Their activities overlap and, with this operation, they seek to merge into a single tournament, Premier Padel ([C/1430/23](#)).

Risks to competition

The CNMC analysed the competition concerns that could arise if it were to authorise the purchase without commitments. To this end, it carried out a market test involving various stakeholders that could be affected by the operation: promoters, sponsors, sports broadcasters and, in particular, players.

The parties consulted generally favoured the operation. However, once the purchase has been authorised, Premier Padel will attain very high market shares and will lead the market for holding the exploitation rights for professional padel tennis competitions. As a result, QSI will have a privileged position in deciding the conditions for player participation. This could involve imposing exclusivity or other clauses that directly or indirectly limit their participation in other competing tournaments.

QSI's commitments

The CNMC considers that the commitments offered by QSI are sufficient to overcome the competition concerns.

- Players will be able to participate in tournaments on the Premier Padel circuit in Spain without having to enter into an agreement or be affiliated to an association.

- No exclusivity clauses will apply to players for tournaments in Spain, regardless of whether they have signed agreements with Premier Padel or are affiliated to an association.
- In the event of adherence to Premier Padel agreements, the terms and conditions currently in place for tournaments held in Spain will apply.
- Accordingly, other existing contracts will no longer be in effect when the transaction is closed and will not be reinstated in the future.
- QSI will inform the CNMC, for validation, if it adopts a new framework agreement or modifies the existing terms.
- The commitments will last for three years, with the possibility of extending them for a further two years.

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