

The CNMC investigates possible anti-competitive practices in the public road passenger transport sector

- The companies may have shared out contracts tendered by public bodies in the Autonomous Community of Castilla-La Mancha.
- Between 6 and 8 October, the headquarters of several entities operating in this sector within the region were inspected.
- The inspections are a preliminary step toward a possible disciplinary proceeding.

Madrid, 9 October 2025 – The Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC) is investigating possible agreements and/or concerted practices regarding the allocation of public road passenger transport service contracts, particularly in the area of school transport, within the Autonomous Community of Castilla-La Mancha.

Between 6 and 8 October, the CNMC carried out inspections at the premises of several entities active in this sector. These inspections represent a preliminary step before the possible opening of a disciplinary proceeding and do not prejudice the outcome of the investigation or the guilt of the companies involved.

Very serious infringements

Agreements between competitors constitute a very serious infringement of competition regulations (Spanish Competition Act), which can lead to fines of up to 10% of the total turnover of the companies.

The investigation of cartels is one of the CNMC's priorities for action due to the serious consequences for consumers and the functioning of the markets.

Leniency Programme and citizen collaboration

The CNMC has a [Leniency Programme](#) that allows companies and associations participating in a cartel to benefit from exemption from paying fines, provided that they submit evidence that helps to detect the cartel. It also allows companies that provide information with significant added value after an investigation has begun to benefit from a reduction of the fine.

Companies applying for leniency are excluded from the prohibition on contracting with the public sector—as established in Article 71 of the Public Sector Contracts Act (LCSP) for those sanctioned for serious infringements in the area of distortion of competition (Article 72.5 LCSP and Articles 65.4 and 66.5 LDC).

The CNMC has an online citizen collaboration platform to detect cartels. This platform, called the [Anonymous Competition Whistleblower System \(SICA\)](#) allows individuals to report anti-competitive practices anonymously, such as

agreements between companies to fix prices or other commercial conditions, or to divide up markets, customers, or tenders.

Related content:

- [Guide on public procurement](#)
- [Leniency programme](#)
- [Anonymous Competition Whistleblower System \(SICA in Spanish\)](#)
- [Communication 1/2023 of 13 June \(ban on contracting\)](#)