

The CNMC investigates possible anti-competitive practices in the vehicle recycling and decontamination sector

- The investigated entities may have engaged in price-fixing and/or unfair competition.
- Between 9 and 11 December, the CNMC inspected the premises of several entities in the sector.
- The inspections are a preliminary step to the possible initiation of infringement proceedings.

Madrid, 15 December 2025. The Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC) is investigating possible price-fixing practices and/or acts of unfair competition in the sector of recycling and decontamination of end-of-life vehicles.

The entities may have breached environmental regulations governing companies' responsibility for the waste generated by their activities. These practices could provide a competitive advantage for investigated entities and/or constitute price-fixing prohibited by the Competition Law (Ley de Defensa de la Competencia, LDC).

Between 9 and 11 December, the CNMC inspected the premises of several entities in the sector. This is a preliminary step in the investigation and does not prejudge the final outcome or the liability of the companies involved. If, as a result of the investigations, evidence of prohibited practices is found, infringement proceedings shall be initiated.

Very serious infringements

Agreements between competitors constitute a very serious infringement of competition law and may result in fines of up to 10% of the total turnover of the sanctioned 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 Spanish Public Procurement Act (Ley de Contratos del Sector Público, LCSP) for those

sanctioned for serious infringements in the area of distortion of competition (Article 72.5 LCSP).

The CNMC has an online citizen collaboration platform to detect cartels. This platform, called the [Anonymous Competition Whistleblower System \(Sistema de Informantes de Competencia Anónimos, SICA\)](#) 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 \(SICA\)](#)
- [Communication 1/2023 of 13 June \(ban on contracting\)](#)