

COFECE investigates live performances productions, show-centers operation and automated ticketing.

- *COFECE's Investigative Authority will investigate this market to determine if relative monopolistic practices exist.*
- *This inquiry should not be understood as a prejudgment, but as a proceeding of the authority to verify compliance with the law.*
- *This is an opportunity for the affected parties to contribute with COFECE providing additional elements for the investigation.*

Mexico City, May 13th 2016. - Through the Mexican Federal Official Gazette and its website, the Federal Economic Competition Commission's (COFECE) Investigative Authority publically announced the initiation of an ex officio investigation under file IO-005-2015 concerning the possible existence of relative monopolistic practices in the market for live performances productions and promotion, live show-centers operation and automated ticketing.

The Federal Economic Competition Law (FECL) defines relative monopolistic practices as any act, contract, agreement or procedure carried out by companies with substantial market power which has the purpose or effect of unduly displacing other Economic Agents, impeding their access or establishing exclusive advantages in favor of one or several Economic Agents. Said practices can be enacted through market allocation, resale price maintenance, tied sales or purchases, exclusive dealings, boycotts, refuse to deal, predatory pricing, cross subsidies or price discrimination.

Given the time period in which some of the conducts that gave rise to the investigation were possibly executed, article 10 and 13 of the 1992 FECL are applicable as well as articles 56, 58, 59, 66 and 71 of the new FECL, published on the Federal Official Gazette on May 23rd, 2014. COFECE's Investigative Authority will have from 30 to 120 working days, starting December 17th, 2015 when the investigation initiation decision was issued, to carry out the investigation. The aforementioned period may be extended for up to four times.

COFECE states that this investigation should not be understood as a prejudgment on the responsibility of any economic agent since until now, no violation to competition law or alleged responsible economic agent or agents have been identified.

Pursuant to the FECL, if the existence of a relative monopolistic practice is proven, the Commission may order its correction or elimination. Likewise, the responsible economic agents might receive an economic sanction, which are also enforceable to those who contributed, favored or induced the commission of such conducts.

The initiation of the inquiry is an opportunity for the affected parties in the aforementioned markets, to approach COFECE's Investigative Authority and present elements or additional information for the development of the investigation.

Access the *infographics* section of the website www.cofece.mx What is a relative monopolistic practice? (in Spanish)

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The Federal Economic Competition Commission is entrusted with safeguarding competition and free market access. Through these, it contributes to consumer welfare and the efficient functioning of the markets. Through its work it seeks better conditions for consumers, greater output and better services and a “level playing field” for companies.

