

COFECE notifies economic agents of a Statement of Probable Responsibility for a possible collusion in maritime transportation services

- *The Investigative Authority reckons there are enough elements to presume that economic agents have engaged in absolute monopolistic practices within the investigated market.*
- *The case will continue as a trial-like procedure in which Economic Agents will be able to respond to allegations.*

Mexico City, October 20, 2016.- The Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission (COFECE) notified several economic agents of a Statement of Probable Responsibility for their alleged participation in absolute monopolistic practices within the market of maritime transportation of motor vehicles for construction and agricultural rolling machinery.

The notification establishes the initiation of the case's trial-like procedure stage, which will be conducted by the Commission's Technical Secretariat. This, since the Investigative Authority concluded its ex-officio inquiry process, file IO-005-2013, initiated on November 29, 2013, and has now issued a Statement of Probable Responsibility that states that there is sufficient evidence to presume that the economic agents involved are likely to have participated in an absolute monopolistic practice.

Under the Federal Economic Competition Law (FECL), absolute monopolistic practices are those contracts, agreements, arrangements or combinations amongst competing economic agents, which have as their purpose or effect to fix prices, restrict supply, and allocate markets, rig bids and exchange information with one of these purposes or effects.

During the trial-like procedure, the corresponding economic agents will have the right to argue in their favor and submit evidence related to the allegations presented against them.

COFECE's Board of Commissioners shall issue a resolution once all defense arguments are heard, evidence is analyzed and allegations are brought forth.

What is an absolute monopolistic practice?

Step-by-step from the anticompetitive conduct to the sanction

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The Federal Economic Competition Commission is entrusted with safeguarding competition and free market access. Through this, COFECE contributes to consumer welfare and 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.