

COFECE notifies economic agents of a Statement of Probable Responsibility for possible absolute monopolistic practices in media monitoring services provided to the public sector

- *The Investigative Authority found enough elements to issue a Statement of Probable Responsibility for possible anticompetitive practices.*
- *The case will continue as a trial-like procedure in which the Economic Agents will be able to respond to COFECE's allegations*

Mexico City, May 25, 2017.- 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 in the market of specific-themed media monitoring services, including news compilation, organization, systematization, analysis, reporting and dissemination services provided to public authorities.

The investigation was initiated 14 December, 2015 and was completed 31 March, 2017, at which time the Investigative Authority released a Statement of Probable Responsibility that states that there is sufficient evidence to presume that the involved economic agents are likely to have participated in contracts, agreements, arrangements or combinations between competing economic agents, with the purpose or effect to fix prices, restrict supply, allocate markets, and rig bids.

The release of said notification initiates the case's trial-like procedure stage which will be conducted by the Commission's Technical Secretariat. During the trial-like procedure, involved economic agents have the right to argue in their favor and submit evidence related to the allegations charged against them. COFECE's Board of Commissioners shall issue a resolution once all defense arguments have been heard, all evidence has been analyzed and all allegations have been brought forth.

In accordance with the Federal Economic Competition Law (FECL), if an absolute monopolistic practice is proven, the economic agents may receive fines up to 10% of their

annual income. According to the Federal Criminal Code, natural persons that had participated in the execution or order of such agreements between competitors could face between 5 and 10 years in prison.

For more information:

[What is an absolute monopolistic practice?](#)

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The Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission guarantees competition and free market access. Thus, it contributes to the welfare of people and efficient functioning of markets. Through its work, it seeks better conditions for consumers, greater and better output and services, as well as a “level playing field” for companies.

