

## **COFECE notifies economic agents of a statement of probable responsibility for absolute monopolistic practices in the market for corn *tortilla* in the municipality of Ángel Albino Corzo, in the state of Chiapas**

- *The Investigative Authority indicates in the Statement of Probable Responsibility the existence of evidentiary elements to presume the notified economic agents carried out anticompetitive conducts.*
- *With the notification of the statement, a trial-like procedure is initiated, in which the notified parties will be able to address COFECE's allegations.*

**Mexico City, January 22, 2019.-** The Federal Economic Competition Commission (COFECE or Commission) notified diverse economic agents of a Statement of Probable Responsibility for the commission of absolute monopolistic practices (horizontal restraints or collusive agreements) in the market for the production, distribution, and commercialization of corn *tortillas* in the municipality of Ángel Albino Corzo, in the state of Chiapas.

This investigation, filed under DE-043-2017, initiated on January 31, 2018, resulting from a complaint and concluded on November 23, 2018. The Investigative Authority indicated in the Statement of Probable Responsibility, having knowledge of a probable contract, agreement, arrangement or combination of these among competing economic agents, with the purpose or effect of fixing, elevating, arranging or manipulating the price per kilogram of *tortilla* and establishing the obligation of providing a limited amount of services, specifically, in the commercialization of this product. The aforementioned in the municipality of Ángel Albino Corzo, in the state of Chiapas.

Absolute monopolistic practices are contracts, agreements or arrangements among competing economic agents, with the purpose of effect of manipulating prices, restricting or limiting demand, the division or segmentation of markets, bid-rigging, as well as the exchange of information between said agents for the commission of any of the aforementioned conducts.

The notification of the statement of probable responsibility established the initiation of the trial-like procedure during which the alleged offenders have the right to argue in their favor and submit evidence related to the allegations presented against them. Once the facts have

been addressed, the evidence processed, and the corresponding arguments presented, COFECE's Board of Commissioners may issue a resolution as per the law.

Should an unlawful conduct be confirmed, the economic agents may be fined as per the *Federal Economic Competition Law*.

See in Spanish: [What is an absolute monopolistic practice?](#) and [What are Statements of Probable Responsibility and what are they used for?](#)

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*The Federal Economic Competition Commission is entrusted with safeguarding competition and free market access. This contributes to people's well-being and the efficient functioning of markets. With its work, COFECE seeks better conditions for consumers, more services of higher quality and a "level playing field" for companies.*