

COFECE notifies economic agents of a statement of probable responsibility for a possible collusion in the market for land passenger transportation

- *With this notification of a statement of probable responsibility, the trial-like procedure initiates, in which the economic agents can present their defense against the allegations brought against them.*
- *The land transportation service facilitates the connectivity of our country and positively impacts on the economic development of other productive activities, such as tourism.*

Mexico City, March 24, 2021.- The Federal Economic Competition Commission (COFECE or Commission) notified several economic agents of a statement of probable responsibility as it found evidence of their probable participation in collusive agreements to fix prices and segment routes in the market of the service of land passenger transportation in the Central, Central-South, South-Southeast regions and the state of Tamaulipas.

The service of land transportation facilitates the connectivity of our country and positively impacts on the economic development of other productive activities, such as tourism. According to the study on competition in federal passenger transportation (*Estudio de competencia en el autotransporte federal de pasajeros*) conducted by COFECE, this means transported 96% of passengers in the country.

Collusions, defined in the Federal Economic Competition Law (LFCE, per its initials in Spanish) as absolute monopolistic practices, are agreements between competitors that, instead of competing for the preference of consumers, pact to manipulate prices, restrict or constraint supply or demand, allocate markets, arrange bids in tenders, as well as exchanging information with any of the previous purposes or effects.

From the notification of a statement of probable responsibility to 18 companies and 31 natural persons who are indicated in the file IO-003-2017 for their probable responsibility in the referred monopolistic conducts, these will be able to argue in their favor and offer evidence for their defense. Once these statements have been made, the evidence is submitted and the corresponding arguments are presented, the Board of Commissioners of COFECE will resolve in accordance with the law.



In accordance with the LFCE, absolute monopolistic practices can be sanctioned with fines of up to 10% of the income of the sanctioned economic agents. Additionally, natural persons who committed them can face a criminal procedure that entails sanctions of 5 to 10 years of prison.

Read [What is an absolute monopolistic practice?](#) (in Spanish) and [What are and what is the purpose of notifications of probable responsibility?](#) (in Spanish)

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

