

COFECE-015-2021

## **COFECE notifies a statement of probable responsibility for a trial-like procedure for a possible collusion in the draft of professional soccer players in the national territory**

- *The Investigative Authority concluded its inquiry and issued the statement in which it indicates the probable existence of absolute monopolistic practices.*

**Mexico City, May 6, 2021.-** The Federal Economic Competition Commission (COFECE or Commission) notified several economic agents of a statement of probable responsibility in conducting absolute monopolistic practices in the market for the draft of professional soccer players in the national territory. Thus, the trial-like procedure is initiated so that those notified can present their defense.

With this investigation (file number IO-002-2018), COFECE sets a precedent so that conducts that restrict the mobility of workers and affect the determination of wages in the market, in case of being detected, are investigated with strict adherence to the competition regulation. Human resources recruitment and hiring processes are a market that has been investigated in diverse jurisdictions around the world, such as Chile, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Because of the foregoing, it was determined to notify the statement of probable responsibility to those probably responsible and to initiate the trial-like procedure stage, in charge of the Technical Secretariat of this Commission, so that the notified parties can argue in the favor and offer evidence related to the accusations made against them. Once these manifestations are done, the evidence is disbursed and the corresponding arguments are presented, the Board of Commissioners of COFECE may resolve pursuant to the law.

In accordance with the Federal Economic Competition Law, absolute monopolistic practices or collusions are conducts that consist of contracts, agreements or arrangements amongst competing economic agents which have as their purpose or effect to fix prices, allocate markets, restrict supply, agree bids in tenders or exchange information with such purposes or effects.

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These may be sanctioned with fines of up to 10% of their income. Additionally, natural persons who carry them out 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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### **MORE COMPETITION FOR A STRONGER MEXICO**

*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.*

