

Cofece notifies several economic agents and natural persons of a statement of probable responsibility for possible price manipulation in the retail sale of maritime diesel

- *The Investigative Authority concluded its inquiry and issued a statement of probable responsibility in which it indicates the probable existence of absolute monopolistic practices.*
- *With the notification of this statement of probable responsibility, the trial-like procedure begins, in which the economic agents and natural persons may present their defense against accusations made against them.*

Mexico City, January 26, 2023.- The Federal Economic Competition Commission (Cofece or Commission) notified a statement of probable responsibility to several economic agents and natural persons after finding evidence of a probable collusion to fix, raise, agree or manipulate the sale price (absolute monopolistic practice) in the market for the retail of maritime diesel at service stations in the national territory. Marine diesel is the fuel used by various types of vessels, such as boats and ships, and the service stations where it is sold are located in coastal areas or near the mouth of rivers.

The investigation of this matter, processed under file number DE-029-2019, concluded on October 27, 2022, and in its statement of probable responsibility, the Investigative Authority indicated that it had knowledge of facts that possibly derived in the realization of absolute monopolistic practices provided for in article 53, section I, of the Federal Economic Competition Law (LFCE, per its initials in Spanish).

The notification of a statement of probable responsibility initiates the trial-like procedure, conducted by the Commission's Technical Secretariat, in which those probable responsible may argue in their favor, offer evidence related to the alleged accusations made against them and present arguments. Once the procedure has been processed, the Board of Commissioners of Cofece will resolve in accordance with the law.

If it is proved that an absolute monopolistic practice was carried out, sanctions may be imposed in accordance with the applicable LFCE.

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The Federal Economic Competition Commission safeguards competition and free market access.

Through its work, it seeks better conditions for consumers, that more services are supplied with higher quality and that there is a "level-playing-field" for companies