

## **Cofece notified a company of a statement of probable responsibility for possible anticompetitive practices in the self-service stores market**

- *The Investigative Authority concluded its investigation and issued a statement of probable responsibility.*
- *The notification of this statement of probable responsibility initiates the trial-like procedure, in which the economic agent may state its rights regarding the alleged accusations against it.*

**Mexico City, October 9, 2023.**- The Federal Economic Competition Commission (Cofece or Commission) notified a statement of probable responsibility to a company for the probable vertical price fixing and/or other relative monopolistic practices in the market for the supply and distribution of consumer goods by self-service store chains in the national territory. Unlawful practices stated in Article 56, section II, of the Federal Economic Competition Law (LFCE, by its initials in Spanish).

According to data from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI, by its initials in Spanish), Mexican families spend more than half of their income on consumer goods such as food, beverages, cleaning, personal care, and household items. With this action, Cofece reaffirms its commitment to protect competition in the markets of greatest relevance to the welfare of the population.

Due to its importance in the purchasing power of the people, both the food and beverage sector and its distribution channels are priority sectors for the Commission, which is why it will maintain its proactive vigilance to pursue any anti-competitive behavior. In addition, the Commission invites any person who knows of monopolistic practices to file a complaint before the Investigative Authority.

With this statement of probable responsibility (under file IO-002-202), the trial-like procedure in charge of the Technical Secretariat of the Commission begins, in which the notified company may offer evidence related to the alleged accusations made against it, present arguments or state what is within its right. Once the procedure has been completed, the Board of Commissioners of Cofece will resolve in accordance with the Law.

If the conduction of a relative monopolistic practices is proven, sanctions in accordance with the applicable LFCE could be imposed to the notified economic agent.

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### **MORE COMPETITION FOR A STRONGER MEXICO**

*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.*