

Cofece imposes a fine of more than 437 million pesos on gas stations for manipulating retail prices

Mexico City, October 15, 2024. The Federal Economic Competition Commission (Cofece) fined **52 gas stations, the Mexican Association of Gas Businessmen (Amegas) and 18 executives for a total of 437,911,146 pesos.** Those sanctioned illegally conspired and to the detriment of final consumers to manipulate the prices of regular and premium gasoline between 2014 and 2021.

The sanctioned illegal conducts are the following:

- 15 gas stations and 2 executives, with the help of Amegas, held a forum for gasoline sellers where they agreed not to lower gasoline prices between 2014 and 2017, for which they received a fine of almost **28 million pesos.** The sanctioned gas stations are part of *Grupo Combustibles* and the *Colón* gas station.
- 13 gas stations of *Grupo Megasur*, *Grupo Enerkom* and *Grupo Lodemo*, along with 3 executives, were fined with more than **315 million pesos** for manipulating prices between March 2020 and June 2021. This conduct took place in **Merida, Yucatan.**
- 18 gas stations belonging to *Grupo Casimiro*, *Grupo Hernie*, *Grupo Express-Bajío*, *Grupo Insurgentes*, *Grupo Presidentes*, *Arandas* and *Villas*, located in **Irapuato, Guanajuato**, as well as 6 executives, were fined almost **70 million pesos** for their illegal actions conducted between January and November 2018.
- The *Nandalumi* and *Iván Hugo Combustibles* gas stations, located in **Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas**, in addition to 2 executives received a fine of more than **12 million pesos** for coordinating prices between January and December 2018.
- The *Casper* and *Centauro* gas stations located in **León, Guanajuato**, in addition to 2 executives were fined **almost 4 million pesos** for manipulating prices between January and August 2018.
- 3 gas stations that are part of *Grupo Hidrocarburos Hidalgo y Grupo*, located in **Pachuca, Hidalgo**, as well as three executives were fined **more than 8 million pesos** for carrying out these practices between January and October 2018.

Price fixing between competitors is illegal and seriously impacts the economy and welfare of the population. Cofece will continue to use all its tools and powers to the fullest extent so that these conducts do not go unpunished.

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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.