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***Highlights…***

***Weekly follow-up: 27 Mar – 31 Mar***

***SPANISH COMPETITION***

**CNMC opens a sanctioning proceeding against Google for potential anti-competitive practices (S/0013/22: GOOGLE DERECHOS CONEXOS)**

The CNMC is currently investigating a series of practices that could constitute an abuse of Google's dominant position towards Spanish publishers of press publications and news agencies. In particular, the investigated practices concern the possible imposition of unfair commercial conditions on publishers of press publications and news agencies established in Spain for the exploitation of their copyrighted content.

In addition, the conduct under investigation may also involve acts of unfair competition that may distort free competition and affect the public interest by taking advantage of the situation of economic dependence on Google suffered by publishers of press publications and news agencies established in Spain.

**Google’s history with the CNMC**

It is not the first time that the CNMC has investigated Google for possible anti-competitive practices. Although in previous cases, the proceedings were closed, Google has not only been investigated for abuse of dominance ([S/0431/GOOGLE ADWORDS](https://www.cnmc.es/sites/default/files/217484_7.pdf) or [S/0346/11,GOOGLE](https://www.cnmc.es/sites/default/files/116743_7.pdf)) but also for possible anti-competitive agreements ([S/0004/19 - GOOGLE EL TENEDOR](https://www.cnmc.es/sites/default/files/3350672.pdf)).

**Google undergoes an investigation wave**

* In **Germany** (2022), the Bundeskartellamt opened proceedings examining potential anti-competitive restrictions imposed by Google Maps Platform.
* In **Italy** (2022), the AGCM opened an investigation due to a potential abuse of dominance regarding interoperability in data sharing with other platforms.
* In the **UK** (2022), the CMA opened an investigation to determine whether Google abused its dominant position through its conduct in the digital advertising technology market.