

SPANISH COMPETITION *Highlights...*

Weekly follow-up: 10 Jul – 14 Jul.

The CNMC sanctions the cartel of two of the main companies providing business information database services in Spain.

On 4 July 2023, the CNMC adopted a decision in case *S/002/21: BASES DE DATOS EMPRESARIALES* sanctioning Bureau Van Dijk Publicaciones Electrónicas S.A. (“**BvD**”) and its parent company (Moody's Corporation), and Informa D&B S.A.U. (“**Informa**”) and its parent company (Compañía Española de Seguros de Crédito a la Exportación S.A., Cía de Seguros y Reaseguros (SME)).

The affected market and the sanctioned practices

The market affected by the sanctioned practices is the market for the provision of business information services, both economic and financial, to third parties. The main products jointly marketed in Spain by BvD and Informa are Sabi, Amadeus and Orbis.

In this respect, the sanctioned practices consisted on customer sharing and price fixing for the marketing of the Sabi, Amadeus and Orbis business information databases from 2002 to 2021.

The Leniency Programme

Both companies have benefited from the leniency programme. On the one hand, BvD has been exempted from paying the fine as a consequence of being the first company to submit the leniency application. On the other hand, Informa has been granted a 30% reduction of its fine, resulting in a final amount of 3.558.135 euros.

In this regard, the leniency programme allows companies or managers involved in a cartel who cooperate with the CNMC in its detection or investigation to be exempted from, or a reduction in the amount of the fine to be imposed. The effectiveness of the leniency programme is demonstrated by the fact that, according to the CNMC, leniency applications have been submitted in 46% of the sanctioned cartels since 2008.

In order to improve the effectiveness of the leniency programme, the CNMC has published a questionnaire aimed at measuring the degree of existing knowledge about the same, as well as analysing opportunities for improvement. Interested parties can participate in the questionnaire until 31 July.