

## **Cofece notifies a statement of probable responsibility for possible collusion in the maritime transportation services market in Quintana Roo**

- *The Investigative Authority concluded its inquiry and issued a statement of probable responsibility that indicates the probable existence of absolute monopolistic practices.*
- *This notification marks the beginning of the trial-like procedure, in which the economic agents and individuals may defend themselves against the accusations against them.*

**Mexico City, February 9, 2024.-** The Federal Economic Competition Commission (Cofece or Commission), upon finding evidence of possible collusion to segment the maritime transportation services market in the state of Quintana Roo notified companies and natural persons with the statement of probable responsibility. These conducts, known as absolute monopolistic practices and punishable under the Federal Economic Competition Law, (LFCE by its initials in Spanish) were charged in the said statement issued by the Investigative Authority of Cofece (under file IO-004-2021).

The notification of this statement marks the beginning of the trial-like procedure, in which those alleged responsible may manifest what is within their right, offer evidence related to the alleged accusations made against them, and present arguments. Once the proceeding is finished, the Board of Commissioners of Cofece will resolve in accordance with the LFCE. If it is proven that an absolute monopolistic practice was carried out, sanctions may be imposed on the parties under the applicable LFCE.

the transport sector is one of the priority sectors for the Commission in its Strategic Plan 2022-2025, given its relevance in the national economy. According to data reported by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI by its acronym in Spanish), in 2022, the transport, post, and storage sectors represented 11.4% of the Gross Domestic Product at the national level (GDP) and 7.5% of Quintana Roo's GDP in 2021. Furthermore, according to data from the Integral Port Administration of Quintana Roo, in 2023:

- A total of 13,938,672 passengers were served.
- 9,036 ferry movements, 993,622 passengers transported, and 607,890 arrivals and departures of cargo on ferries were reported.
- 1,156 cruise ships arrived at the Port of Cozumel with a total of 4,089,054 passengers.
- And 18,113 containers were mobilized with 44,639 tons of import products and 5,867 tons of export products.

The Commission will continue to focus its efforts towards the detection and prosecution of anti-competitive conducts that could affect the transport sector and reaffirms its invitation to anyone with information on anti-competitive practices to file a complaint before Cofece.

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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.*