

# SPANISH COMPETITION *Highlights...*

***Weekly follow-up: 9 – 13 Oct.***

## **The CNMC launches a public consultation on the challenges SMEs face in accessing public tenders and growing**

On 10 October, the CNMC launched a public consultation aimed, on the one hand, at analysing the challenges faced by SMEs when participating in national public tenders and, on the other hand, at identifying other obstacles hindering their development and growth.

The public consultation will be open until 1 December 2023.

### **SMEs and the Spanish economy**

It should be noted that the concept of SMEs, according to Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC, covers enterprises with up to 250 employees and a turnover of up to EUR 50 million per year.

As the CNMC notes, more than 99% of Spanish companies are SMEs, having a fundamental role in innovation, growth and employment in Spain.

In this sense, public tendering has a very important impact on the Spanish economy as an instrument capable of fostering inclusive and sustainable growth. However, the CNMC reveals that Spanish SMEs do not participate as much in public tenders as do SMEs in other European countries.

### **The CNMC's Action Plan 2023**

The CNMC, aware of the importance of SMEs for the Spanish economy, includes in its Action Plan the preparation of studies and guides in sectors and areas relevant to the productivity and competitiveness of the Spanish economy, such as SMEs, which has promoted the launch of the public consultation.

In addition to the above, the CNMC considers, in this same document, the review of the tendering and contract award phases, included in the Guide to Public Procurement and Competition. This review is aimed at offering guidelines to improve the design of public tenders and to encourage effective participation in them.

In addition to the strategy set out by the CNMC, the National Public Tendering Strategy 2023-2026 also identifies obstacles to SME participation in public tendering and develops a series of actions aimed, among other measures, at promoting the participation of SMEs in these procedures.