

## **The CNMC studies the liberalization of public rail transport services (commuter and medium distance)**

- The first step of the study is a [public consultation](#) on the sector, which will be open until December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- EU regulations require Spain to introduce competition in suburban and mid-distance transport, which accounted for almost 500 million passengers in Spain last year.
- Competition in the provision of public services in other countries has reduced public service costs and improved quality.

**Madrid, October 30, 2024-**, The National Commission of Markets and Competition (CNMC) has launched a [public consultation](#) to gather information on public passenger transport services by rail (suburban and mid-distance) and its next tender. This consultation is the first step of a study on the liberalization of these services and will be open until December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The CNMC seeks to identify challenges and barriers and formulate recommendations to ensure that market opening benefits both passengers and taxpayers.

After the liberalization of high-speed and long-distance, the next step in Spain is the opening of rail services with public service obligations, such as suburban and mid-distance. In 2023, these services carried some 492 million passengers, most of them living in peripheral areas of large cities and with below-average incomes. Therefore, the liberalization of this sector is key to improving social and territorial cohesion, promoting environmental sustainability and strengthening the articulation and economic activity of metropolitan areas.

International experience suggests that the liberalization of public rail transport services results in cost savings for the tendering authorities, as well as an increase in service quality.

The CNMC promotes effective competition in the markets, as established in Article 5 of Law 3/2013, of June 4<sup>th</sup>. It also carries out studies and research on competition and prepares reports on economic sectors with proposals for liberalization, deregulation or regulatory modification. These works are included in CNMC's [Action Plan](#).

**Related content:**

- [Public consultation](#)
- [E/CNMC/004/19](#): Study on the liberalization of commercial passenger rail transport services
- [INF/DTSP/031/2024](#): Report on the liberalization of rail passenger transportation