

The Mossos d'Esquadra and the CNMV sign an agreement to jointly combat financial fraud with other public and private entities

This is one step further in the CNMV's Action Plan against financial fraud crimes, signed by the Police of the Generalitat and a further 18 bodies in April 2022.

The agreement will allow for knowledge and resources to be added to those of the other signing entities so as to improve the prevention and efficacy in detecting and prosecuting crimes related to fraudulent operations.

The Directorate-General of the Police of the Home Affairs Department of the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat) and the Spanish National Securities Market Commission (CNMV) have signed a collaboration agreement to improve and strengthen the prevention of and the fight against financial fraud.

This Agreement aims to set the framework for collaboration between the Police of the Generalitat – Mossos d'Esquadra of the Home Affairs Department, via the Central Economic Crime Unit (ACDECO) of the Criminal Investigation Division (DIC) – and the Spanish National Securities Market Commission when prosecuting financial fraud and the persons operating outside the legal channels foreseen by the regulations of the securities market, specifically regarding Article 144 of the Securities Market Law (unauthorised persons or entities). The agreement includes the proposal for coordination of the Police of the Generalitat and the CNMV, whenever generalised effects regarding financial investment products or irregular entities intending to simulate transactions are detected in Catalonia, by means of reports to or information of the police.

By becoming part of this agreement, the Mossos d'Esquadra will share useful information in combating financial fraud with other police forces, such as the National Police, the Civil Guard, the Ertzaintza and the Chartered Police of Navarre, while also with other public and private entities, such as the Bank of Spain, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation, the Registrars Association, the General Council of Notaries, the

Executive Service of the Commission for the Prevention of Money Laundering and Monetary Offences (SEPBLAC), and several banking and investor associations.

The agreement with these entities will serve to create direct communication channels to streamline the exchange of information with the purpose of reducing the financial fraud attempts.

Interactive database of entities committing financial fraud

Up to now, the CNMV has created an interactive database that may be accessed by the Mossos and all signing entities, allowing for information regarding financial fraud information to be shared. This is an important tool for the investigative work of the Central Economic Crime Unit (ACDECO) of the Criminal Investigation Division (DIC) of the Mossos d'Esquadra.

Thanks to the agreement, the Mossos d'Esquadra have been able to use this database since April 2022 for any investigation related to financial fraud. This tool is extremely useful for police work as it allows specialised investigators to learn about all the fraudulent entities detected by the Spanish National Securities Market Commission and other foreign supervisors.

The aim of the plan put forward by the CNMV is to boost and improve the prevention of and fight against the offer of potentially fraudulent financial products and services which cause great losses to investors and the financial sector as a whole. In this cooperation, among their functions, the Mossos will be in charge of investigating and detecting irregular and criminal activities regarding the offer of financial products and services that may result in financial fraud.

A follow-up team has been set up to apply improvements and establish strategies for these types of fraudulent activity which are constantly evolving.

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