

Spain fines top 3 telecoms companies \$159 million

December 20 2012

(AP)—Spain's National Competition Commission has fined top telecommunications operators Telefonica, Vodafone and Orange a total of €120 million (\$159 million) for abusing their dominant position and charging excessively high prices for texts and multimedia messages.

The commission said Thursday that between 2000 and 2009 the three companies exploited the absence of regulation to maintain artificially high wholesale prices for operators without their own networks. It said this led to higher retail prices for [short messages](#) and created barriers for companies wishing to enter or expand in the market.

Telefonica was fined €46.5 million, Vodafone €43.5 million and Orange €30 million. The three said they would appeal.

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Citation: Spain fines top 3 telecoms companies \$159 million (2012, December 20) retrieved 1 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-12-spain-fines-telecoms-companies-million.html>

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