

PRESS RELEASE

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The Competition College of the BCA authorizes the acquisition of Zetes by Panasonic

The Competition College of the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) has authorised on 13 April 2017 the acquisition of Zetes Industries SA by Panasonic Corporation.

The AVC (Advanced Video Coding) division of Panasonic, in which Zetes will be integrated, manufactures and distributes hardware such as large ruggedized mobile computers.

Zetes is a company listed on Euronext Brussels. Its activities are focused on the identification of people (for example the production of electronic identity cards) and the identification of goods (for example by means of bar code readers and small ruggedized mobile computers).

The concentration was assessed with regard to the market for large ruggedized mobile computers and the market for automatic data capture solutions, at least the market segment for automatic data capture solutions for the identification of goods.

The Competition College has decided that the concentration does not cause a significant restriction of competition on these markets. It came to this conclusion, as did the competition prosecutor, because there is no risk that Panasonic might reserve its large ruggedized mobile computers for Zetes, and the market for automatic data capture solutions for the identification of goods is in full expansion with many operators.

For more information you may contact:

Prof. em. dr. Jacques Steenbergen

President

Tel. +32 (2) 277 73 74

E-mail: jacques.steenbergen@bma-abc.be

Website: www.belgiancompetition.be

The Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) is an independent administrative authority that contributes to the definition and implementation of competition policy in Belgium. Concretely, the BCA pursues anti-competitive practices, such as cartels and abuses of a dominant position, and reviews the main merger operations. The BCA cooperates with the other competition authorities of the member states of the European Union and the European Commission within the European Competition Network (ECN)