

The acquisition of Belmedis and other companies by the McKesson group

The Competition College of the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) has on 20 April 2017 conditionally approved in a 2nd phase procedure the acquisition by the McKesson group of Belmedis SA, Espafarmed SLU, Cophana SA en Alphar Partners SA, as well as of a controlling shareholding in Sofiadis SCRL.

This acquisition is concerned with the wholesale of pharmaceutical products and other distribution services concerning the supply of pharmacies.

The Competition College decided that this acquisition could only be approved provided the parties offered a commitment in respect of the divestment of one of their depots in the Ghent area together with all relevant related assets. The parties also offered other commitments in order to protect the competitive opportunities of smaller players among the full-line wholesalers.

A trustee will monitor compliance with the commitments.

The full text of the commitments with the non-confidential version of the decision will be soon published on the BCA website. The appointment of the trustee will be published later.

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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)