

Acquisition of Verstraeten NV and Gent Store by Verstraeten BVBA (Verstraeten Group) by Bilia Holding Flanders NV (Bilia Group)

The Investigation and Prosecution Service of the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) has approved on 20 November 2018 the acquisition of Verstraeten NV and Gent Store by Verstraeten BVBA (Verstraeten Group) by Bilia Holding Flanders NV (Bilia Group).

The merger was notified on 29 October 2018. The application of the simplified procedure was requested.

The Bilia Group is active in the automobile sector, in particular in the sale of passenger cars, transport vehicles and multi-branded motorcycles, as well as in all kinds of vehicle services.

The Verstraeten Group comprises authorised BMW and MINI distributors and is active in the sale of passenger cars and in repair and maintenance services.

In its decision of 20 November 2018, the BCA finds that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure are met and that the notified merger does not raise any objection.

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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)