

**The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of Groupe Claes & Zonen by Groupe Maurin**

The Investigation and Prosecution Service of the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) has approved on 3 September 2019 the acquisition of Groupe Claes & Zonen by Groupe Maurin, a French group, via its Belgian subsidiary SAAEM Belgium NV.

The merger was notified on 23 Augustus 2019. The application of the simplified procedure was requested.

The merger concerns the sector of motor vehicles.

The Maurin Group is a French group that distributes foreign-brand vehicles in France through authorized dealerships. It is also active in Belgium in the sale and after-sales services of new and second hand Mercedes, Nissan and Honda motor vehicles in the authorized dealerships it controls.

Groupe Claes & Zonen is mainly active in the sale and after-sale services of new and second hand Mercedes and SMART motor vehicles through three authorized dealerships in Tienen, Sint-Truiden and Tongeren. The group is also active in new and second hand Mercedes truck sales and after-sales services in Sint-Truiden.

In its decision of 3 September 2019, 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.

**For more information you may contact:**

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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)