

The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of the FACQ group by Cordes & Graefe KG

The Investigation and Prosecution Service of the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) has approved on 26 February 2021 the acquisition of the FACQ group by Cordes & Graefe KG. Through the concentration, Cordes & Graefe KG will acquire sole control of the holding companies that currently own and control the companies FACQ SA, Immobilière les blés d'or SA, Immobilière Weideveld SA et Renoma SRL.

The transaction initially submitted to the European Commission was partially referred to the BCA by the European Commission on 17 February 2021 on the basis of Article 4(4) of Regulation 139/2004. The concentration was notified to the BCA on 18 February 2021. The application of the simplified procedure was requested.

The German company Cordes & Graefe KG is a retailer for sale to professional customers mainly in the fields of sanitary products, plumbing, ventilation, heating and air conditioning, electrical equipment, roofing, excavation and industrial technologies. It operates exhibition centers and wholesale depots in several member states of the European Union, particularly in Germany.

FACQ SA, together with its 100% subsidiary FACQ Logistics SA, is a Belgian retailer for professional customers in sanitary, heating, plumbing and ventilation products. It operates regional warehouses, specialized retail stores and showrooms exclusively in Belgium. Immobilière les blés d'or SA, Immobilière Weideveld SA and Renoma SRL own the real estate (warehouses, logistics facilities, other lots and buildings) operated by FACQ SA.

In its decision of 26 February 2021, the BCA finds that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure are met and that the notified merger does not raise any objections.

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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)