

The Belgian Competition Authority approves the merger between the ports of Antwerp and Zeebrugge

The Competition College of the Belgian Competition Authority has approved on 7 January 2022 the merger between the Havenbedrijf Antwerpen and the Maatschappij van de Brugse Zeehaven creating an integrated port enterprise (Haven van Antwerpen-Brugge / Port of Antwerp-Bruges).

The investigation focused on the impact of the concentration on markets for port concessions and general and specific port services for containers, fluid bulk and ro-ro cargo.

The College has decided, in line with the proposal of the competition prosecutor, that the concentration is unlikely to give rise to consequences that would prevent approval.

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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)