

The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of Mercedes-Benz Drogenbos NV and Mercedes-Benz Waterloo SA by RCM Belgium SA

On 10 November 2022, the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) approved the concentration by which RCM Belgium SA acquires sole control of Mercedes-Benz Drogenbos NV and Mercedes-Benz Waterloo SA.

The parties are active in the automotive distribution and related services sector.

The operation was notified on 20 October 2022 and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

Mercedes-Benz Drogenbos NV and Mercedes-Benz Waterloo SA, both subsidiaries of Mercedes-Benz Retail Belgium, are Mercedes-Benz dealerships in the provinces of Flemish Brabant and Walloon Brabant respectively.

The RCM Group operates six Mercedes-Benz dealerships, one of which is also a Smart dealership. These are :

- the five Mercedes-Benz dealerships operated by SAGA-Piret:
 - o four of them are located in the province of Hainaut (SAGA Mons, SAGA Saint-Ghislain, SAGA Tournai and SAGA La Louvière). The one in Mons is also a Smart concession;
 - o a fifth is located in the province of Walloon Brabant (SAGA Nivelles); and
- the Mercedes-Benz dealership operated by the company SAGA Charleroi in the province of Hainaut.

The parties' activities overlap in the markets for (i) the sale of new and used passenger cars and light commercial vehicles, (ii) the maintenance and repair of passenger cars and light commercial vehicles, (iii) bodywork services for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles, and (iv) the distribution of spare parts for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles

In its decision of 10 November 2022, the BCA finds that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure are fulfilled and that the notified concentration does not give rise to 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)