

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition by the Sopra Steria group of Assua NV and its subsidiaries Tobania NV and Python Predictions BV**

On 20 February 2023, the Belgian Competition Authority ("BCA") approved the merger by which Sopra Steria Benelux SA intends to acquire sole control of Assua NV and, indirectly, of its two subsidiaries, Tobania NV and Python Predictions BV.

The parties are active in the provision of IT services and enterprise software.

The proposed transaction was notified on 8 February 2023 and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

The Sopra Steria group, present in Belgium through its subsidiaries (i) Sopra Steria Benelux SA, (ii) Sopra Banking Software Belgium and (iii) Sopra HR Software, offers four main types of services: (i) consulting and systems integration, (ii) business software publishing (banking, human resources, real estate), (iii) business process execution, and (iv) IT infrastructure management.

Assua, a holding company with no commercial activity of its own, holds 100% of the shares in Tobania and Python Predictions. Tobania mainly provides a range of IT services including consulting, development (IT consulting, application development), testing and support services (customer service, cloud services and IT infrastructure), and IT solutions (data engineering, information management, data utilization). Tobania also has a limited activity in infrastructure software. Python Predictions, on the other hand, specializes in data services and operates as a business unit of Tobania.

The notified merger leads to horizontal overlaps in the IT service provision market and some of its segments, and involves non-horizontal relationships between (i) Sopra Steria's activities in the application software publishing market, on the one hand, and Tobania's activities in the infrastructure software publishing market, on the other, and (ii) the parties' activities in the IT service provision market.

In its decision of 20 February 2023, the BCA found that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure were met and that the notified concentration did not raise 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)