

**The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of NeWIN and its subsidiaries Wallonie Data Center and Phenix Data Center by the Ethias group**

The Belgian Competition Authority (hereinafter "BCA") approved on 24 May 2023 the concentration by which the Ethias group (hereinafter "Ethias Group"), through its subsidiary Network Research Belgium SA (hereinafter "NRB"), acquires sole control of the company NeWIN SA and its two subsidiaries Wallonie Data Center SA and Phenix Data Center SA (hereinafter "NeWIN Group").

The draft operation was notified on 5 May 2023 and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

The Ethias Group is active in IT services through its subsidiary NRB, which offers IT infrastructure and network management, server and data hosting, and customised application development. NRB is also active in the distribution of IT equipment.

The NeWIN Group is active in the provision of IT services, the provision of retail telecommunication services and the sale of IT equipment.

The concentration leads to horizontal overlaps in the provision of IT services, as well as in the sale of IT equipment. Furthermore, the concentration implies a possible vertical relationship between (i) NeWIN's activity in the market for business connectivity services on the one hand and (ii) the parties' activity in the market for the provision of IT services on the other hand.

In its decision of 24 May 2023, the BCA finds that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure are met and that the notified concentration 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)