

The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of sole control of the Soga Group by Verbraeken Drilling Infra NV

On 25 May 2023, the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) approved the acquisition of sole control of the Soga Group by Verbraeken Drilling Infra NV.

The concentration was notified on 4 May 2023 and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

Verbraeken belongs to the group whose central holding company is We Connect Infra NV (hereinafter "We Connect Infra Group"). We Connect Infra Group operates in the construction of civil engineering works for utilities, which is a subdivision of the wider construction market. We Connect Infra Group thus mainly provides civil engineering construction services for utilities in Belgium and also operates in France, the Netherlands and Germany.

The Soga Group consists of several companies, namely Soga NV, Vermargo NV, Wegro NV and Wema BV. These companies are active in the construction and maintenance of road infrastructure, and the installation and maintenance of sewage installations. In addition, the Soga Group is also active in green construction and maintenance.

In its decision of 25 May 2023, the BCA finds that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure are met, that effective competition in the relevant markets is not significantly impeded 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)