

Belgian Competition Authority approves joint control by Brussels Airport Ventures and Limburgse Reconvertie Maatschappij over Droneport

On 18 September 2023, the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) approved the joint control by Brussels Airport Ventures and Limburgse Reconvertie Maatschappij over Droneport.

The concentration was notified on 29 August 2023 and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

Brussels Airport Company is responsible for the operation and development of Brussels National Airport. Through its subsidiary Brussels Airport Ventures, Brussels Airport Company invests in growing and specialised companies that contribute to increasing its innovative capacity, thus supporting the agility and growth of Brussels Airport Company.

Limburgse Reconvertie Maatschappij (LRM) is an investment company active in investing in companies and projects that generate economic activity in Limburg. In addition, LRM invests in experimental real estate to give former mining sites in Limburg a makeover, such as be-MINE and Terhills, and in business parks and sector-specific infrastructure to offer companies and the economy in the region room for growth.

Droneport focuses on (i) renting out commercial space as an incubator for start-ups and project teams developing drones, components, sensor technology, software or services for unmanned aerial vehicles (ii) operating a catering facility and (iii) operating Limburg Regional Airport, an airport with a focus on training flights, but which also hosts recreational flights.

In its decision of 18 September 2023, the BCA found that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure were met and that the notified concentration did 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)