

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The Belgian Competition Authority confirms that it will examine any agreement or draft cooperation agreement between telecommunications operators aimed at mutualizing the deployment of fibre infrastructures, in full collaboration with the BIPT**

The Belgian Competition Authority has taken note of the communication of the BIPT Council of 10 October 2023 on cooperation agreements to roll out FTTH (“fiber-to-the-home”) networks.

As previously underlined, the deployment of high-performance fibre networks throughout the country is essential for the future of our economy and society as a whole.

The Belgian Competition Authority confirms that it will therefore carefully examine any agreement or proposed agreement on cooperation between telecommunications operators aimed at pooling the deployment of fibre infrastructures in Belgium. The aim of this examination will be to ensure that the cost savings achieved by the operators actually benefit end-users, consumers and businesses alike. In this context, particular attention will be paid to the conditions listed in the BIPT communication.

In general, the Belgian Competition Authority intends to cooperate fully with the BIPT in its examination of any cooperation agreement that may be brought to its attention in this area.

#### **For more information you may contact:**

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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)