

PRESS RELEASE

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Belgian Competition Authority approves asset transfer and reorganisation of Pidpa and water-link

On 14 November 2023, the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) approved both the acquisition of the water supply assets of Pidpa (Adelta.Rio) by Adelta and the acquisition of the wastewater management assets of water-link (Adelta) by Adelta.Rio.

Both concentrations were notified simultaneously on 19 October 2023 and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

Adelta concerns the transformed water-link and is a commissioned association within the meaning of Article 398 §2 3° of the Flemish Decree on Local Government of 22 December 2017 (hereinafter "DLG") with the subject of water supply and wastewater management at municipal level.

Adelta.Rio concerns the transformed Pidpa and is a commissioned association within the meaning of Article 398 §2 3° DLG with the object of water supply and wastewater management at the municipal level.

These mergers are part of an overarching transaction whereby the current water-Link and Pidpa, each transformed into a Water Entity (Adelta) and Rio Entity (Adelta.Rio) respectively, will enter into a partial swap of assets ("asset swap").

Thereby, water-link will be transformed into a Water Entity (Adelta) which will take over the water supply assets from Pidpa (and retain them from water-link) and on the other hand, Pipda will be transformed into a Rio Entity (Adelta.Rio) which will take over the wastewater supply assets from water-link (and retain them from Pidpa).

In two decisions dated 14 November 2023, the BCA found in each case that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure were met and that the notified concentrations 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)