

Belgian Competition Authority approves RG Safety's acquisition of Vandeputte Safety and related companies in the personal protective equipment sector

On 8 December 2023, the Competition College of the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) approved the acquisition of sole control of Prosafco NV and V12 NV, the parent companies of Vandeputte Safety International NV (together "Vandeputte Safety"), by RG Safety SAS (hereinafter "RG").

RG and Vandeputte Safety are both active in the procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment.

RG distributes products both under manufacturers' brand names and its own brand name, to companies operating in various sectors, such as construction, chemical, automotive, etc. RG also sells personal protective equipment to government bodies and public services. In Belgium, RG has so far operated only through Lisap NV and its activities in Belgium have been relatively modest.

Vandeputte Safety and related companies operate in the procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment mainly to medium-sized companies and larger international corporations.

With regard to the various procurement markets, the Competition College endorses the auditorate's analysis that the transaction will not lead to anticompetitive effects as the increment is limited, there are large international players on the supply side of these procurement markets, there are increasing lateral competitive pressures from online platforms, and there are no significant barriers to entry.

As regards the distribution market, the Competition College also endorses the auditorate's analysis that the transaction will not lead to anti-competitive effects as, again, this is a limited increment while a number of other players will continue to compete, including for large public tenders.

For these reasons, the Competition College stated in its decision of 8 December 2023 that the concentration will not give rise to anti-competitive effects and is thus permissible.

For more information you may contact:

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The Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) is an independent administrative body that helps define and apply competition policy in Belgium. Specifically, the BCA prosecutes anti-competitive practices, such as cartels and abuses of dominant position, and oversees major mergers and acquisitions. The BCA cooperates with the competition authorities of the Member States and the European Commission within the European Competition Network (ECN).