

PRESS RELEASE

Nr 3/2024
22 January 2024

The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of Alma NV and Restora NV by Carrefour Belgium NV.

On 19 January 2024, the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) approved the acquisition of sole control of the department stores Alma NV and Restora NV (hereinafter "Alma" and "Restora") by Carrefour Belgium NV (hereinafter "Carrefour Belgium").

The concentration was notified on 3 January 2024 and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

Carrefour Belgium belongs to the Carrefour group and operates mainly as a supermarket chain. Carrefour Belgium organises the activities of the Carrefour group in Belgium and manages (including franchisees) 40 Carrefour hypermarkets, 349 Carrefour Market supermarkets and 313 Carrefour Express shops. Besides supermarket activities, Carrefour Belgium offers additional services such as Carrefour Finance (Visa card), Carrefour Travel and Carrefour Mobile, among others.

Alma and Restora are operators (franchisees) of supermarket franchise shops under the "Carrefour Market" formula in the provinces of Antwerp, Limburg and East Flanders. Alma operates seven Carrefour Market franchise shops. These shops are located in Bilzen, Geel, Grobbendonk, Herentals, Lommel, Mol and Mol-Wezel. Restora has one Carrefour Market franchise shop in Sint-Niklaas.

In its decision of 19 January 2024, the BCA finds that the conditions for applying the simplified procedure are met, that effective competition on the relevant markets is not significantly impeded and that the notified concentration does not raise any objections.

For further information, please contact:

Damien Gerard
Auditor-General
Tel: +32 (2) 277 76 57
E-mail: damien.gerard@bma-abc.be
Website: www.bma-abc.be

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)