

PRESS RELEASE

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The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of the Gilops group by the Uhoda group

On 13 May 2024, the Belgian Competition Authority (hereinafter "BCA") approved the concentration by which the Uhoda group, through its holding company Financière Saint-Paul, acquires sole control of the Gilops Group company and its subsidiaries.

The parties are mainly active in the wholesale and retail supply of motor fuels.

The concentration was notified on 26 April 2024, and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

The Uhoda group is mainly active in Belgium in the sector of fuel station services (notably fuel retailing, ancillary shops), as well as in the events and the real estate sectors.

The Gilops group is mainly active in Belgium in the wholesale and retail supply of motor fuels and the storage of refined petroleum products.

The parties' activities overlap on the market for the retail supply of motor fuels at fuel stations. In addition, the merger involves potential vertical relationships (i) between the non-retail supply of motor fuels by the Gilops group and the retail supply of motor fuels by the parties, and (ii) between the non-retail supply of heating oil by the Gilops group and the retail supply of heating oil by the Uhoda group.

In its decision of 13 May 2024, the BCA finds that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure are met and that the notified concentration does 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)