

PRESS RELEASE

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The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of the Van Hoecke Group by the Blum Group

On 23 May 2024, the Belgian Competition Authority (hereinafter "BCA") approved the concentration by which the Blum Group, through its subsidiary Julius Blum GmbH, acquired sole control of the companies Van Hoecke NV, Halux NV and Van Hoecke BV (together "Van Hoecke Group").

Both parties are active in the furniture industry, in particular in the production and distribution of furniture hinges and drawer systems.

The concentration was notified on 6 May 2024, and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

The Blum Group is mainly active in the production and distribution of metal hinges and drawer systems. Its furniture components are produced outside Belgium and distributed in the Benelux almost exclusively through the Van Hoecke group.

The Van Hoecke group is mainly active in the distribution of the Blum group's products in the Benelux, as well as in the production and distribution of its own wooden drawer systems.

The parties' activities overlap on possible markets for the distribution of furniture hinges, and the production and distribution of drawer systems, which would be European in scope. In addition, the concentration involves vertical relationships between the parties' activities in the production and distribution of these components.

In its decision of 23 May 2024, the BCA found that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure were met and that the notified concentration 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)