

PRESS RELEASE

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The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition by the Accenture group of the company ARHS Developments S.A. and some of its subsidiaries

The Belgian Competition Authority ("BCA") approved on 4 July 2024 the concentration by which the Accenture group, through its subsidiary Accenture Holdings B.V., acquires sole control of the company ARHS Developments S.A. and, indirectly, of some of its subsidiaries.

The parties are active in the provision of IT services.

The proposed transaction was notified on 24 June 2024 and application of the simplified procedure was requested.

Accenture Holdings B.V. is a limited liability company under Dutch law which is part of the Accenture group, whose holding company is Accenture plc, a publicly traded company. The Accenture group is a global provider of IT and consulting services. The Accenture group is present in 49 countries, and serves its clients in more than 120 countries. In Belgium, the Accenture group is mainly active through Accenture NV/SA.

ARHS Developments S.A. specialises in managing complex public sector IT projects, including systems integration, IT and analytics, as well as solution implementation and program management. During its most recent financial year, ARHS Developments S.A. made sales to customers in Belgium through the following entities, all of which provide IT services: (i) ARHS Developments S.A.; (ii) ARHS Technology N.V.; (iii) ARHS Cube S.A.; (iv) ARHS Spikeseed S.A.; (v) ARHS Digital N.V.; (vi) ARHS Developments Belgium N.V.; and (vii) ARHS Developments Hellas Information Systems Single Member S.A.

The notified concentration raises horizontal overlaps in the market for the provision of IT services, as well as some of its segments.

In its decision of 4 July 2024, the BCA found that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure were met and that the notified concentration did raise 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)