

PRESS RELEASE

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The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of joint control of Community Building Arenberg BV by *Participatiemaatschappij Vlaanderen*, Flanders Make, the city of Leuven and *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*

On 12 August 2024, the Belgian Competition Authority (“BCA”) approved the acquisition of joint control of Community Building Arenberg BV by *Participatiemaatschappij Vlaanderen*, Flanders Make, the city of Leuven and *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*.

The concentration was notified on 22 July 2024 and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

Participatiemaatschappij Vlaanderen (“PMV”), an investment company of the Flemish government, is active as an investor in companies (SMEs and large enterprises), projects (real estate, infrastructure and energy) and investment funds. It advises, guides and finances different types of real estate projects: (i) sustainable area development (e.g. science parks), (ii) real estate projects with social relevance (e.g. provincial housing), and (iii) heritage projects concerning buildings of historical importance.

Flanders Make is a non-profit organisation that supports SMEs and large manufacturing companies through a strategic research centre for the manufacturing industry, connecting researchers in several Flemish cities in cooperation with the laboratories of the five Flemish universities. Flanders Make aims to create a research network in Flanders, as well as support companies in the manufacturing industry so that they can innovate and be more internationally competitive.

Leuven is a Flemish municipality and the capital of the province of Flemish Brabant. It recognises sustainability, climate resilience, circularity and entrepreneurship as important themes in its 2020-2025 multi-year plan. In this context, Leuven funds, among others, several projects pertaining to high-tech, health and the creative economy.

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (“KU Leuven”) is a Flemish university that, through its knowledge and technology transfer office, and in cooperation with the city of Leuven, aims to create a favourable climate for high-tech entrepreneurs by engaging in the development, construction and management of, among other things, science parks in the Leuven area. Together with several spin-off companies, the university is active in two science parks, namely (i) Arenberg, which focuses on the biotechnology and ICT sectors, and (ii) Haasrode, which provides housing for high-tech companies.

Community Building Arenberg BV is a cooperation between PMV, Flanders Make, the city of Leuven and KU Leuven for the development, construction and management of a new (community) building of approximately 17,500 m² in the Arenberg Science Park located on the Gaston Geenslaan in Leuven (Heverlee). The building will be divided into office spaces to be rented out on the one hand and a communal part with certain common facilities for the Arenberg Science Park on the other. The aim is to create office space to be rented out to innovative (high-tech) companies that would like to establish themselves in the Arenberg Science Park.

In its decision of 12 August 2024, the BCA found that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure were met and that the notified concentration did not 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)