

The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of Duomed by Palex

On 3 September 2024, the Belgian Competition Authority ('BCA') approved the acquisition of Duo-Med Investments ('Duomed') by Palex Medical ('Palex').

The concentration was notified on 19 August 2024 and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

Palex is the parent company of a group of companies active in the distribution of medical equipment and supplies to hospitals, mainly in Spain, Portugal and Italy. Palex is in turn indirectly jointly controlled by investment funds advised by Apax Partners LLP and by investment funds advised by Fremman Partners Limited that manage a broad and diversified portfolio of interests in various sectors (IT services, footwear, slimming solutions, human resources management services, advertising, production and rental of mobile sanitary equipment, etc.).

Duomed, headquartered in Aartselaar, is active in the distribution of medical equipment and supplies, mainly in Benelux, France and Switzerland.

In its decision of 3 September 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)