

PRESS RELEASE

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The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of Scheerders van Kerchove's Verenigde Fabrieken by Beerens Groep and Aertssen Group

On 19 September 2024, the Belgian Competition Authority (“BCA”) approved the acquisition of Scheerders van Kerchove's Verenigde Fabrieken by Beerens Groep and Aertssen Group.

The concentration was notified on 18 September 2024, after the Investigation and Prosecution Service expressed doubts about the fulfilment of the conditions associated with the lifting of the standstill obligation (see Article IV.10, §6 of the Code of Economic Law), and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

Beerens Groep (hereafter “Beerens”) is mainly active in the automotive sector through the sale of used cars, new cars via official concessions, as well as exclusive vintage cars. Beerens also carries out related activities such as marketing, transport, storage, body repairs, rental, leasing, trading, fleet services, etc. In addition, Beerens is also active in the wholesale of bicycles and real estate investment and development.

Aertssen Group (hereinafter “Aertssen”) is a construction company active in four categories of activities. With Aertssen Infra nv, it is active in activities related to earth moving, road and sewerage works, hydraulic works, demolition works, environmental works, asbestos removal, soil remediation, reclamation, infrastructure works and machine rentals. Furthermore, Aertssen Cranes nv specialises in lifting and moving large and heavy objects. Aertssen Services nv is active in the sale of used construction machinery. Finally, there is Aertssen Transport nv.

Scheerders van Kerchove's Verenigde Fabrieken nv is a manufacturer of building materials. In particular, it specialises in the production and sale of fibre cement materials, such as facade slabs and slates.

In its decision of 19 September 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)